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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you come up with a New Year's resolution this year?

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Lenovo unveils a PC the size of a coffee table that works like a giant tablet.

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WORLD



Egypt's minority Coptic Christians celebrate their first Christmas.

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LIFE & STYLE



James Earl Jones and Angela Lansbury say that life in their 80s continues to be exciting.

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Fund wants Govendo disqualified. **PAGE 5**

Regents: Allegations vs Hart 'unsubstantiated'



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Board of Regents meet yesterday on campus. The board later found allegations against NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., to be mostly unsubstantiated.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents ruled yesterday that the allegations of mismanagement and abuse of power leveled against Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., are unsubstantiated and will not be acted on.

In a special meeting, the board presented an eight-page report of its committee that held a two-day review of documents submitted as evidence by both faculty members and Hart. The committee found the faculty allegation unsupported. The board adopted its recommendation by a 5-0 vote, with regent Frank Rabauliman not present.

Hart was accused of fiscal mismanagement and

» **Faculty claims decision rail-roaded to favor Hart**

abuse of power, including alleged spending of over \$200,000 for off-island travels.

"While both the concerned faculty members and the president submitted documentation showing actual travel expenses by the president in an amount over \$50,000 and the

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Fitial to deliver 'SOCA' today

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will deliver his "2012 State of the Commonwealth Address" dur-

ing the final session of the 17th House of Representatives today, Tuesday.

Some lawmakers questioned the timing, considering that lawmakers and the community were not given advance notice.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* Monday night that Fitial accepted House Speaker Eliceo Cabrera's (R-Saipan) invitation to address the

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Fitial

'Maintaining neighborhoods needs everyone's help'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

A Koblerville resident is appealing to his neighbors to unite in maintaining a vacant public lot in their area to prevent illegal dumping and other unlawful activities.

Jack Muña said yesterday that overgrown weeds have lured others to discard used tires and even dead animal carcasses on the lot located along As Gonno Road across Ahu Drive, posing environmental and safety hazards for nearby residents, including his family.

Muña said he saw about a month ago several teenagers offloading used tires on the lot. He said he yelled at them but

See HELP on Page 4



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Koblerville resident Jack Muña points to used tires that were dumped on a vacant lot along As Gonno Road during an interview yesterday.



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Local

Two Filipino groups join ranks of UFO



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Two groups have joined the United Filipino Organization family.

The Alternatibong Kagalingan Angkop sa Pamayanang Pinoy, Inc. or AKAP Pinoy and the Saipan Building & Fixing Computer Users Group or SBF-CUG accepted their official certificates of membership during the installation ceremony for UFO's new officers at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Saturday.

AKAP Pinoy is composed of graduates of culinary courses offered in the past by the Philippine Consulate General, while the SBF-CUG was founded in 2006 and incorporated as a nonprofit group in 2011 by graduates of the consulate's computer-related classes.

Marlon Regaton, president of AKAP Pinoy, said in an interview after the event that their UFO membership is a welcome development for the group since the consulate's shutdown last year.

"We are pleased that UFO has reached out to us as they

Photo above shows members of the Saipan Building & Fixing Computer Users Group or SBF-CUG as they accept their certificate of membership during the induction ceremony for the new set of officers for the United Filipino Organization held Saturday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa. Right photo shows members of the Alternatibong Kagalingan Angkop sa Pamayanang Pinoy, Inc. or AKAP Pinoy, along with other UFO members and supporters.

will be taking the lead on events within the Filipino community. Through our membership, we can now collaborate with other member organizations and hopefully enhance our skills. We stand ready to support UFO," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

SBF-CUG founding chair Mar V. Masilungan said this was the group's third invitation to join the umbrella organization of Filipino associations in the CNMI.

"We finally decided to accept UFO's invitation to show that we are united with other



Filipino groups in the CNMI. We hope that our membership would facilitate information dissemination and coordination of events as UFO takes the lead within the Filipino community," he said in a phone interview.

UFO's latest members bring to 16 the total number of Filipino groups affiliated with the umbrella organization.

UFO president Annamae Adaza acknowledged former UFO officer Paul Madriaga for being instrumental in reaching out to the two groups and expressed hope that other inactive organizations would follow suit. "We have to combine our

forces and at the same time our resources for the benefit of our fellow Filipinos in the Commonwealth. This is the time to work together and serve our *kababayans*," said Adaza.

Other UFO members are Bayani Association, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, Visminda, MDX Radio Club, CNMI Power, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Cabalen, Namfrel, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, Filcom Foundation, Kampil, Triskelion, Mafilwa, and Samahang Ilocano-Pangasinense.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

2013 Signature Events



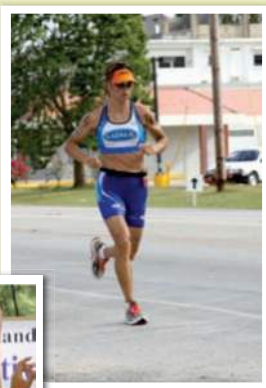
Every year, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners organize and support a series of Signature Events in the Northern

Marianas to attract visitors and provide the local community an opportunity to actively participate in the tourism industry.

In 2013, the MVA looks forward to hosting these events:

January 26	6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run
February 16-17	9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
March 2	8th Annual Saipan Marathon
March 9	12th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship
March 16	24th Annual Tagaman Triathlon
May 1-31	2013 Tourism Month
May 4, 11, 18, 25	15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
June 22	13th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim
November 16	20th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon

Mark your calendars to support these 2013 Signature Events as a full competitor or participant, a volunteer, a sponsor, or a spectator.



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Everybody's Business."**



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

RELATED NEWS

► UFO Installation photo spread.
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Court urged not to reopen evidentiary hearing for former WPS principal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco urged the district court to turn down the request of former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl to open the evidentiary hearing for his case, saying the motion for reconsideration filed by the former educator is both untimely and inappropriate.

The 57-year-old Weindl was indicted on two counts of receipt of child pornography and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography. He allegedly used a government-issued laptop to review child pornographic materials.

Based on Limtiaco's filing on Dec. 4, the motion for re-

consideration shall be made within 14 calendar days of entry of the order or judgment for which reconsideration is sought. In Weindl's case, the court's order denying his motion to suppress evidence was filed on Nov. 20, 2012. The government on Nov. 30 filed its motion to reconsider the portion of the order suppressing all evidence obtained after defendant was provided with Miranda warnings.

It was disclosed that the defendant's motion for reconsideration was not filed until Dec. 14, which is 24 days after the entry of the order. Although the government did not oppose Weindl's motion to extend the time period for him to oppose the government's motion for

reconsideration, Weindl did not ask the court for permission to file his own late motion for reconsideration.

Limtiaco also argued that the motion for reconsideration is inappropriate, pursuant to the Local Rule 7.1g, which states that a motion for reconsideration may be appropriate when the court is presented with newly discovered evidence; the court committed a clear error or the initial decision was manifestly unjust; there has been an intervening change in controlling law; or there is some other, highly persuasive circumstance warranting reconsideration.

Limtiaco stated that the information provided in the declaration of Joseph C. Torres, which

was attached to Weindl's motion for reconsideration, is not new evidence. Torres, she said, was interviewed by the FBI on July 17, 2012, and a written summary of the interview was provided to Weindl's attorney in advance. There has also been no change in the law since the court issued the order and the court did not commit a clear error nor issued a decision that was manifestly unjust.

According to the U.S. attorney, Weindl's motion also repeats prior argument regarding "legitimate expectation of privacy." Weindl, she said, also had a full opportunity to present evidence during the four-day hearing of the case, during which he should have called Torres as a witness.

Wiseman denies SDLLC's bid to dismiss PPA case

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-

Incoming lawmaker wants to revisit 'ice' sentencing law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Representative-elect Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), a former police officer, said that among his priorities is to look into judges' concern over an "ice" law that requires mandatory sentences.

"I will revisit it definitely," said Leon Guerrero in an interview yesterday.

Leon Guerrero was referring to a law that provides a mandatory 25-year prison sentence on anyone convicted of trafficking "ice", even it involves only 3 grams and the defendant has no prior conviction.

Superior Court associate judges David A. Wiseman and Kenneth L. Govendo had both urged the Legislature to look into this "ice" trafficking law.

In a written order in an "ice" case issued last year, Wiseman said he finds it necessary to make a statement suggesting amendments to mandatory sentencing laws as this type of statutes "curb the discretion of prosecutors and judges over certain offenses or types of offenders."

Wiseman said divesting prosecutors and judges of control over criminal sentences is

Saipan) and other plaintiffs in the ongoing lawsuit on the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement scored anew

a concern because discretion is the touchstone of a judicial sentence.

Leon Guerrero, who is expected to chair the House's Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said one of his main concerns is law enforcement and that the Department of Public Safety is one.

"We definitely need to restore the people's confidence back in our law enforcement. I'm very much in support of that," said Leon Guerrero, who has been a law enforcer for 20 years.

He said he will also revisit a bill that seeks to strengthen laws on sex crimes and domestic violence. The bill, introduced by Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), was recently vetoed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

In vetoing the legislation, Fitial cited "some very serious concerns" the Office of the Attorney General raised, including the removal of vital definitions that would hinder prosecution.

Leon Guerrero said he supports the intent of Villagomez's bill.

He also vowed to introduce revenue-generating legislation. "I'm looking into legislation that will benefit both our government and the community," he added.

Superseding indictment filed against defendant in human trafficking case

The U.S. government, through its attorneys, filed Thursday its first superseding indictment against Yin Liu, alias Da Niu, a defendant in an ongoing human trafficking case in the U.S. district court.

The grand jury charged the defendant with conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens, harboring illegal aliens, and enhanced penalty allegation.

According to U.S. attorneys Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Garth R. Backe, and Ross K. Naughton, the defendant conspired to conceal and harbor illegal aliens by supplying them with housing, sustenance, transportation, and means to avoid detection by federal immigration officials.

The incident occurred between or about Aug. 5, 2012,

through Sept. 7, 2012, in the CNMI.

The same superseding indictment indicated that the defendant, between or about Sept. 1 and Sept. 7, 2012, harbored and concealed an illegal alien known to the grand jury as Y.T. for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain.

According to court documents, the defendant committed and continued to commit the offenses charged, while on release pending trial in a criminal case. He is therefore subject to an enhanced penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment.

The defendant had pleaded not guilty. Jury trial is currently set on Jan. 14. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Student volunteers sought for Kagman after-school program

The Kagman Community Center wants to run an after-school program starting this month. It will open rooms for those who want to do homework, read books, and study intensively. The center is inviting educators, students, and parents to

join this movement. Certificates of volunteerism will be issued to the high school or college students who will help the kids. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or kagmancommunity@gmail.com. (PR)

yesterday after Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman denied Saipan Development LLC's request to dismiss the case.

SDLLC asked for the case's dismissal on the grounds that the complaint's request for declaratory and injunctive reliefs—counts 4 and 5—fails to state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted. SDLLC also argued that the court lacks jurisdiction on the matter as the case involves a political question.

SDLLC cited *Baker v. Carr*, where the U.S. Supreme Court outlines a test to determine whether an issue concerns a political matter. Although the Baker test contains six factors, SDLLC claims that any one factor may be enough for the court

to determine whether the doctrine should apply, and that multiple factors weigh more heavily in its application. SDLLC claims that the PPA falls within at least the first three factors in Baker's test.

Maratita argued, however, that the CNMI Constitution specifically grants taxpayers the right to maintain an action to stop the mispending of public funds. The plaintiffs argue that the court may interfere in this case because the PPA and related agreements are for a non-public purpose and the facts of the case allegedly show fraud and malfeasance.

According to Wiseman, although both plaintiffs and defendant are correct in their restatement of the holding that

declaratory relief is only available in a taxpayer action under Article 10, Section 9 of the NMI Constitution, this also authorizes both declaratory and injunctive relief.

The declaratory and injunctive relief requested in this case, according to the plaintiffs, rest on allegations of illegal expenditure of public funds and breaches of trust and fiduciary duty. In this case, they added, the alleged mispending of public funds by a public official is not a non-justiciable political question.

Wiseman said that although the plaintiffs' allegations did not

explicitly cite Article 10 Section 9 as a legal basis for injunctive relief, the allegations did include facts that, assuming their truth and construed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party, constitute a cognizable legal theory for injunctive relief.

"Because plaintiffs have standing under Article 10 Section 9, and because this court finds plaintiffs' claim for injunctive relief is sufficiently pled, the defendant's motion to dismiss brought pursuant to NMI Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) is hereby denied," states the order.

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17th Legislature to hold final sessions today

The 17th Senate and House of Representatives will hold separate final sessions or *sine die* today, Tuesday.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) set a regular session at 9am, while House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) set a regular session at 10am.

Both Cabrera and Manglona lost their re-election bids last November.

The new Legislature will be sworn in on Jan. 14.

At the Senate session, the calendar includes Senate Commemorative Resolution 17-24 for Chief Justice Alexander C. Castro.

Other items are resolutions to commemorate and acknowledge Senator Manglona for his "unwavering commitment and longstanding service to the CNMI" and to acknowledge and commend Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan) and Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) for their "dedicated services and contributions to the CNMI."

Scheduled for final reading is Sen-

ate Bill 17-109 that seeks to exempt charter flights and new routes from paying landing fees at Common-

wealth airports.

Also for final reading is House Bill 17-159 that seeks to address and de-



Sgt. At Arms John M. Santos cleans up the table in the Senate chamber yesterday afternoon in preparation for today's last session and for the Jan. 14 inauguration of the 18th Senate.

ter bullying in schools by establishing parental liability for the harm inflicted by bullies who are not properly disciplined and supervised by their parents.

Other House bills for final reading at the Senate are to reprogram all remaining funds from Public Law 11-119 (Lower Base Industrial Park area) and to re-appropriate \$271,240 from Public Laws 11-79 and 11-119 for Rota CIP projects.

There was no item in the resolution calendar at the House's session but 10 bills are set for action.

Among these is H.B. 17-243 that seeks to allow individuals to donate a portion of their rebate or refund to worthy causes in the Commonwealth.

Also on the calendar is H.B. 17-228 that aims to amend a statute to provide technical skilled labor for CUC when it is unable to find qualified U.S. citizens and U.S. residents.

Also for action is H.B. 17-300 that creates the "Financial Exploitation of a Man'amko/Elderly Person or a Person With a Disability Act. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

HELP

From Page 1

they immediately sped off on a pickup truck, abandoning their garbage behind.

Muña, 67, expressed disappointment and frustration as he believes that the young perpetrators live within the vicinity.

Come dry season, the wild grass on the vacant lot might catch fire, he said, burning not just the wild plants but also the used tires and putting residents' health at risk.

"This place is our community. If we clean this, there'll be no more dumping. But if we neglect it, people would tend to come and dump their trash on this place," the longtime Koblerville resident told *Saipan Tribune*.

Muña has been clearing and maintaining the abandoned property since 1992. "But when I left for the States in 2005, nobody really maintained it. I came back in 2007 and it's been like this," he recounted.

While he volunteers his time to maintain the lot, Muna noted how he needs the commitment of other civic-minded neighbors to clean the place regularly.

The retired sales supervisor plans to involve other residents to be part of the cleaning team.

"Once you involve a lot of neighbors, we're going to have a very nice place. If this is already clean, I'll guar-

antee you I'll look after it because we don't need this kind of dumping here. People should dispose their trash properly," he added.

Muña said he is now trying to obtain permits to clear the area, which he found out is public land designated by the Department of Public Lands to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

He said he is only waiting for the Division of Fish & Wildlife personnel to arrive today and check if clearing the property would not endanger any bird habitats. Once this is through, Muña plans to call the Saipan Mayor's Office to schedule a cleanup.

Because of the presence of illegal dumping on island, Muña said he supports strict enforcement of laws that prevent littering and other related activities.

"I believe that in order for this to stop, they should really jack up the fines. If you get caught one time and pay that fine, you're going to be really sorry for dumping trash and you're probably not going to do it anymore," he explained.

Muña emphasized the need to keep their respective villages and surroundings clean.

"We all share the responsibility of watching out for each other. If there's any illegal dumping or anything happening here, we should report it. If this area is maintained, a lot of our kids in our neighborhood can bike and play here," he added.

FITIAL

From Page 1

lower chamber.

Demapan said the speaker invited the governor to deliver his "SOCA" during the House's final session.

As for concerns by some lawmakers about the lack of announcement, Demapan said that lawmakers would have been at the Legislature either way today.

"If anyone lacked ample time, it would be the governor, but he has accepted the invitation to address the House," he said.

Demapan said the governor is also hopeful that his SOCA will be broadcasted live since legislative sessions are usually shown on TV for viewers at home.

Cabrera invited Fitial to appear during today's last session of the House at 10am to present a "State of the Commonwealth Address" in conjunction with the governor's annual report.

In the letter, Cabrera said he is inviting Fitial to deliver his address due to the significance of the governor's annual report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2012, which is mandated by the CNMI Constitution under Article 3 section 9(b).

In his annual financial report to the Legislature, Fitial presented positive news that he attributes to several cost-cutting measures and more stringent controls over government spending.

Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) said that today's session is supposed to be a regular House session, but then Fitial wants to come "and do a spontaneous State of the Commonwealth Address."

Yumul pointed out that the Constitution says that if the governor is going to do a SOCA, he has to ask for a joint session by both Houses.

"And we will give him time and a date so he can come and give us the State of the Commonwealth Address. Obviously he's not giving the community and the members ample time," Yumul said.

Yumul said today's session should be

canceled and pushed to either Wednesday or Thursday so they can officially receive the SOCA in proper fashion.

"We need to do it right. We need to officially notify the community," the lawmaker stressed.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), for his part, said it is not a State of the Commonwealth Address because a SOCA should be before a joint session.

"I did not sign any joint session. Maybe he will just deliver a speech," Manglona said.

The senator said Fitial is just wasting his time as he should do it in front of a joint session of the 18th Legislature.

He said members of the 18th Legislature will be the ones that are going to start the new year, trying to look over the major issues facing the Commonwealth.

Since 2010, Fitial only submitted a written report to the Legislature on the State of the Commonwealth, deviating from his previous years' practice of delivering SOCA mid-year.

REGENTS

From Page 1

faculty submitted budget documentation showing, in places, a figure in the \$200,000 range, the board did not see any documentation that indicated that the president spent \$200,000 on her travels for the time period referred to," stated the board decision signed by chair Juan T. Lizama.

For Hart's alleged "unwarranted personal reimbursement," the board said it is unclear to the regents as to what exactly is the faculty's concern about these reimbursements. It said there was no policy submitted to show how the amounts, or the specific use, violated any such policy.

The faculty had accused Hart of collecting \$1,101.96 in "unwarranted personal reimbursements like lunches, carwashes, and others."

Hart was also absolved of alleged involvement and approval of sole-source contracts such as that of her husband, who received a \$14,000 consultancy fee from the new college foundation, where the president is an ex-officio member; and the hiring of Hart's son

in a work-study program at the college. The board found these allegations unsubstantiated.

"The board found no documents specifically marked as supporting this concern. The board did find a copy of an article published in a local newspaper regarding one sole-source contract. It found no others," the decision read.

The board also cleared Hart of alleged violations of human resources policies and procedures in the hiring of off-island employees. "Again, not only is this concern unclear to the board, but it found no document specifically marked in support of this concern."

The faculty's concern, the board added, is also unclear as to what exactly Hart micromanaged at the institution.

The board, however, disclosed that Hart admitted the hiring of her son as a work-study employee, but found no truth to the allegation that she also wants to hire her son-in-law. The board said the person that the faculty is referring to is a son of the president's family.

"The president's response adequately showed that no ethical violation occurred [in the hiring of her son]. Because of the sensitivity of the issue, the board does caution the president that

she should exercise better discretion in such a situation," the decision read.

Other allegations that were found unsubstantiated included the faculty contract's non-renewal without cause; alleged inequitable salaries for new hires versus experienced employees; alleged dishonored contracts; equipment purchases without RFP; interference and manipulation of student registration process for personal gain; and others.

On the issue of violation of NMC procurement and CNMI law regarding the issuance of a government vehicle to Hart, the board said this has been rectified after it provided the president a \$1,000 monthly transportation allowance.

Plagiarism admitted

If there was any admission of error on the part of the NMC president, it was on the accusation of plagiarism regarding portions of the college's accreditation report.

"Substantiated and the president admitted to it. However, the board was informed of the error by the president as soon as she became aware of it. The board is satisfied with the corrective action taken to resolve this concern," stated the board's decision.

Hart also admitted to the "incorrect" information she provided the board. *Saipan Tribune* learned that this pertains to the School of Education's admittance of alumni as teachers, which is considered a positive note by the accreditation team but which was orally reported to the board by the president as among the college's "weaknesses."

"Substantiated and admitted by the president that the recommendation was not stated at the SOE WASC exit session. What she said in her report to the board was apparently said to her orally. The board agrees that the issue is a sensitive issue and the president should have explicitly stated in her report to the board that the recommendation was made orally so that the board was made aware of that fact," the decision added.

Lack depth; railroaded

Faculty members, including Faculty Senate president Amanda Angel-Diaz and members Cyndi Guerrero and Kyle Podziewski, yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with the board's findings.

Angel-Diaz said she will relay the outcome to the Faculty Senate and assembly and the group will decide on its next step, including the possibility

of asking the board for clarification on some of its findings.

Prior to yesterday's adjournment of the meeting, Angel-Diaz provided the regents a copy of the board policy that highlights their role as regents, which include, among others, being accountable for the president's action.

Angel-Diaz and other faculty members accused the board of railroading the decision to favor the president, who will be reporting at the accreditation meeting next week.

Podziewski, vice chair of the governance council, said he was not surprised with the result because the board's investigation "lacked depth" and "was not thorough."

Faculty members also believe the "unsubstantiated" mark in most of the allegations was due to insufficient documents they filed as a result of the "very short period" given them to comply with the board's instruction. Angel-Diaz said the faculty was only given two days—including Christmas Eve—to come up with all the evidence.

Up to this time, Angel-Diaz revealed that they were not provided a copy of Hart's response to all the allegations against her.

Fund wants Govendo disqualified from presiding over suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has applied to withdraw his employee contributions from the NMI Retirement Fund in an amount that, if granted, would total more than \$50,000.

Govendo's application prompted the Fund board of trustees, through counsels Daniel J. Berman and Brad-dock J. Huesman, to ask the Superior Court yesterday to disqualify Govendo from presiding over the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

According to Berman and Huesman, Govendo, the assigned judge in the Fund lawsuit, submitted in writing on Sept. 19, 2012, his application to withdraw his employee contributions from the Fund.

Just days before, on Sept. 11, 2012, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law Public Law 17-82, which allowed Fund

members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government. To date, more than 1,700 members have applied for refunds with the Fund. After issuing 93 refund checks, the Fund suspended the disbursement, citing the delinquent contributions of both the employee and

employer contributions of the government and its autonomous agencies.

In a seven-page motion to disqualify Govendo, Berman and Huesman said that Govendo is holding position number 1,002 in the line of government employee applications to terminate his membership in the Fund and withdraw his employee contributions.

"Records within the Fund reflect that the judge's requested distribution or payout, if granted or ordered by this court, would be substantial and more than \$50,000," the lawyers said.

For the moment, the Fund is

holding confidential the exact amount that is possibly payable to Govendo.

However, the lawyers said, should the Superior Court require an evidentiary hearing on the matter, then, if required, the Fund's plan administrator will appear in court to testify on the exact sum possibly payable.

On Dec. 13, 2012, the Commonwealth Ports Authority filed a motion for an order to show cause to hold Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano in contempt for failing to, among other things, "comply with Public Law 17-82."

Berman and Huesman said

CPA has asked the Superior Court to order, under the threat of its contempt power, the trustee *ad litem* and the Fund to make payments to Fund members who seek to terminate their membership in the Fund, as allowed by Public Law 17-82.

Unfortunately, the lawyers said, CPA's motion puts Govendo in the uncomfortable position of possibly benefiting from his own order.

Should Govendo grant CPA's motion for order to show cause and order the Fund and the trustee *ad litem* to pay and distribute the employee's retirement benefits pursuant to P.L. 17-82, then

Govendo shall receive a direct pecuniary benefit, the two lawyers said.

"Thus, the Fund finds itself in a regrettable and unfortunate position. CPA's motion is baseless, but the motion still seeks to have the court rule on an issue that it has a direct pecuniary interest in," they said.

Because of this, "and with considerable sympathy for the position of Govendo," the Fund has no alternative but to request that the judge recuse himself from the case, they said.

The Fund counsels cited that based on the applicable Commonwealth Code, a judge has no discretion but to recuse himself from further proceedings in a case when his impartiality is reasonably questioned

or when he or his spouse have a financial interest that could be substantially affected by the judge's decision.

Unfortunately, Govendo's request to terminate his membership in the Fund coupled with CPA's motion make it impossible for him to continue presiding over the action, the lawyers said.

The Fund is suing the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and then Finance secretary Eloy S. Inos over the government's failure to remit required payments.

In 2009, Govendo ruled that the government owes the Fund \$282 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.



Govendo

Workshop on CNMI's MPAs, their benefits and challenges

The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources will be holding a one-day workshop on Marine Protected Areas on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall from 8am to 5pm. The core focus of this workshop is to provide an opportunity to share the CNMI's experience with its MPAs and to discuss how federal programs can assist in their management.

Marine protected areas have become a common tool in marine resource management, providing spillover effects of certain species of fishes and invertebrates, and additionally as a recreational draw with certain socioeconomic benefits to local communities.

Currently, there are seven MPAs across the CNMI, including the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, all of which vary in location, size, habitat type, and thus have differences in their effectiveness and utility in terms of fisheries resources and recreation. In addition, there are many areas that act as MPAs, with restricted fishing due to military activities (e.g. Farallon de Medinilla to the north and shipping anchorage on Saipan) and from natural hazards such as seasonal exclusion from inclement ocean conditions. As a result, the establishment, management,

and subsequent benefits and tradeoffs from MPAs are highly complex and not always straightforward.

The specific of this workshop will address the historical establishment of MPAs in the CNMI, discuss their benefits and tradeoffs, and to explore the means by which federal agencies can help in their management. The workshop will feature on-island and off-island marine resource experts

such as Allen Tom, regional director of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Island Region, former CNMI House speakers Heinz Hofschneider and Tom Pangelinan, and other individuals who were instrumental in establishing MPAs within the CNMI.

Presentations will also be given on the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, MPA current research results and directions, and enforcement and challenges of MPAs both from the perspective of the CNMI and Guam.

The MPA workshop is open to the public and is funded through the CNMI DLNR and NOAA office or National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Islands Region.

For more information contact Francisco Villagomez at 664-6044 or email fvillagomez.dfw@gmail.com. (DLNR)

CONTACT INFO

Francisco Villagomez
Tel: 664-6044
Email: fvillagomez.dfw@gmail.com

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Arts Council pins hopes on incoming 18th Legislature

»Agency to strengthen arts in education efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture plans to meet with members of the incoming 18th Legislature to discuss ways of promoting the artistic and cultural segment of the community. Council director Angel S. Hocog said yesterday that they would ask for a meeting with the newly elected lawmakers after their oath-taking this month.

While the council is doing its best to carry out its mandate, Hocog said it still needs the support of the local government through legislative actions and additional funding.

He said that many of the incoming lawmakers, during last year's campaign period, pledged their support to the council once elected.

"We hope that they stick to their promise because they themselves see the im-

portance of arts and culture of the islands," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*.

He noted how other states and territories across the nation list arts and culture among their priorities, unlike in the Northern Marianas where it seems elected leaders disregard the need to promote and expand council activities and events.

Hocog said that among the points to be discussed during the meeting would be appro-

priation for the upcoming 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in April.

He said the council's reinstated ability to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts will help address their financial challenges.

According to Hocog, they are waiting for NEA's decision on their grant application for fiscal year 2013, which would be announced in the next few months.

Arts in education coordinator Parker Y. Yobei, for his part, said the council intends to make its priority arts in education among the island's youth.

Yobei said arts in education has proven to open the minds of students, bringing out their creativity and even enhancing learning in other subject areas.

"They do much better in school if we integrate arts in their curriculum," he said.

Yobei disclosed plans to bring back arts in education through after-school classes, particularly during summer

and other holidays.

In relation to this, Yobei revealed plans to work with the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning by bringing to the island Dr. Lori Phillips.

Phillips is PREL's director of the Pacific Center for Arts and Humanities in Education and offers professional development and standards-based curriculum planning in the arts and humanities.

Yobei said that Phillips can provide workshops that would train teachers about arts education methods for young learners.

Trader starts experimental garden

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Korean businessman is hoping to educate emerging local farmers about good agricultural practices through a small fruit and vegetable garden he created last year.

P&A Corp. president Hong Kyun Kim said in an interview that the garden, located next to the post office in Chalan Kanoa, measures less than 1,000 square meters and aims to determine the kind of produce that can be grown on island.

Kim said he first started his garden about two years ago,

which resulted in harvest that was neither sweet nor tasty, hence the need to experiment with the kind of crop that's best suited for the islands.

He said the garden currently grows cucumber, tomato, watermelon, and eggplant, all of which were planted three months ago. Harvest period is expected in the next two months, added Kim.

Should the experiment prove successful, Kim said they plan to coordinate with local farmers and share their practices and produce then later expand it to other islands.

Besides the garden, Kim said their company also embarked

upon a business involving value-added products made locally.

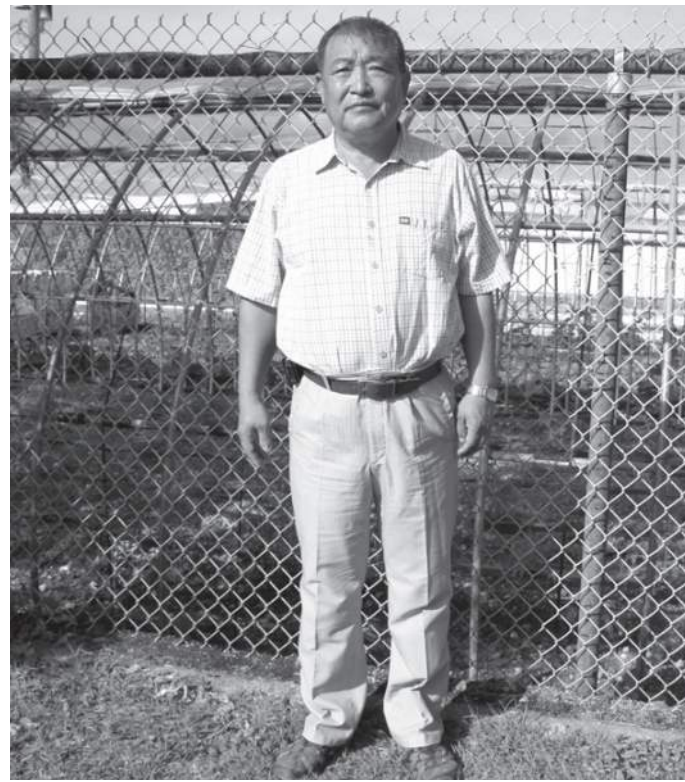
He said they already began production of mango and noni juices, which he noted is still also on the experimental stage.

Additionally, they already introduced in the market their very own coconut oil, which is very popular among tourists.

Kim underscored the potential of the CNMI's agriculture industry and called on all local farmers to develop value-added products from their own crops.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

P&A Corp. president Hong Kyun Kim is shown with his small fruit and vegetable garden in the backdrop. Measuring less than 1,000 square meters, the garden grows cucumber, tomato, watermelon, and eggplant.



Candelaria "Cindy" Aldan of the Military Integration Management Committee's office will be leaving island in a few weeks to further her education in the U.S. mainland. As an active Workforce Investment Agency participant, Aldan was interviewed and selected to train with the Lt. Governor's Office under the supervision and guidance of Teresa

WIA lauds Cindy Aldan

Kim, the lieutenant governor's legal counsel.

Concurrent with her training, she also managed to attain her A.A.S. degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Accounting from the Northern Marianas College this past fall semester. Through the WIA pro-

gram, Candelaria was ultimately transitioned into permanent employment with the MIMC office, under the supervision of the Lt. Governor's Office, a post that she is saddened to leave so soon.

When asked about her journey, Aldan explained, "It was tough. Through my training,

there were high expectations and standards, but it was well worth the challenge."

Aldan expressed her gratitude for having the opportunity to go through the WIA program and more importantly, the opportunity to be selected and transitioned to full employment under the Lt. Governor's Office. From her initial assignment as receptionist and clerical work, Aldan quickly found herself taking on financial reports and analyses not just for the Lt. Governor's Office, but also for the Executive Branch.

"WIA was my stepping stone," added Aldan. "They opened up doors of opportunity for me and without them, I wouldn't have gained the tools and knowledge to become more independent."

WIA is proud of Cindy's achievements and wishes her all the best on her new journey to further her education. (*Office of the Governor*)


PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

This is to inform the General Public that the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association will be having its general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 6:00PM at the Garapan Central Park.

Agenda


- I. Election of Committeewoman
- II. Miscellaneous
- III. Adjournment

Benigno R. Fitial
President



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management**

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315



**COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office Located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a) Call to Order
 - b) Roll Call
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION**

Kannat Tabla Quarry – CRM Permit no. SMS-2012-X-061

 - a. Permit Application summary by CRMO
 - b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - c. Permit Application Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)
- III. OTHER MATTERS**
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ**
Administrator



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-ZB-064**



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 31, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE ON SAIPAN FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.


/s/ DIEGO C. BLANCO
CHAIRMAN, ZONING BOARD

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-051**



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE DPS 408 GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 08, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH


/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB13-OHS-034-EOC**



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 24, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING FOR THE CNMI EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 14, 2013 AT 9:30 A.M. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELACRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 15, 2013.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

VACANCY

Marianas Management Corporation is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

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(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

Beautify CNMI joins global Shark Stanley campaign



Shark Stanley, a charismatic hammerhead shark traveling the globe looking for

people to help protect shark and ray species at the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, has made his way to the shores of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Shark Stanley has partnered with local conservation organization Beautify CNMI in order to organize local support for the proposals to protect five species of shark and two species of manta ray at CITES 16th Convention of the Parties to be held in Bangkok, Thailand March 3-16.

"The Commonwealth is already an international leader in shark management and it is only natural that we want to see sharks protected at a global level," said Cinta Kaipat of Beautify CNMI. "As islanders dependent on the ocean, and as part of the United States, we want to see these protections go through."

Leah Meth and Onon Bayasgalan, graduate students at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, created the Shark Stanley campaign so that the global youth would have a voice at CITES. Their goal is for at least 20 people in each of the 177 CITES member countries to participate in the Shark Stanley campaign.

"Our idea is to create a campaign that will stand out from the typical petitions you see," said Meth. "Each photo will serve as a 'signature,' representing a person who supports shark protections at CITES."

People can participate in the campaign by cutting out a paper copy of Shark Stanley and his friends Manta Reina, Pierre le Porbeagle, and Waqi Whitetip, and then taking photographs with the characters, and posting them on social networks like Facebook and Twitter, tagging their posts with #SharkStanley. Meth and Bayasgalan are compiling the photos and will release the petition during the CITES meeting in March.

"We are able to get our materials translated into other languages and cultures by partnering with dive shops and environmental organizations around the world," said Bayasgalan. "We have reached 47 countries since we launched last month, and we're hopeful we'll get to 177 as the campaign grows."

The Pacific countries voting at CITES are Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Australia, and New Zealand. The Northern Mariana Islands will be represented by the United States at the meeting. The United States is a cosponsor of the proposals to protect



Cinta Kaipat and other members of Beautify CNMI have their picture taken with some members holding up images of Shark Stanley.

the oceanic whitetip shark.

More information on the Shark Stanley campaign can be found online at <http://www.sharkdefenders.com/p/shark-stanley.html>. (PR)

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO. LTD.
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Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with a minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are an advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than January 25, 2013.

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(1) SUPERVISOR, SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive experience at supervisory level and is exceptionally self-motivated. Must be able to supervise sales efforts to achieve and exceed assigned sales goals. Must be skilled at interpreting and communicating company objectives in order to maximize team sales revenue. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Mandarin Chinese. Able to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in retail sales. Must be able to provide exemplary customer service, have a team player mindset and an exceptional cash handling accuracy. Effective communication skills, high energy level, patience, stress tolerance and persuasiveness are essential competencies. Must be able to read and write in English and Mandarin Chinese. Must be able to work a varied schedule including weekends and late night shifts.

(3) MASSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation
invites qualified US workers to apply for the following:

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AA/AS degree with 6 years of progressive airline passenger service and supervisory experience. Supervises passenger service agents and liaises with customer airlines to resolve concerns regarding flight handling operations. Serves as Ground Security Coordinator and trainer for various airline passenger service systems. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargo according to IATA, FAA, TSA, USPS, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work projects as directed by Manager. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargo. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo handling equipment. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs. Must be proficient in the use of AFIS System or 360.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment

AS degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years progressive experience as licensed A&P (airframe & power plant) Technician. Oversees the activities of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and supervises all aircraft repairs and services. Must possess a current US FAA A&P License. Must be certified in various aircraft-type maintenance. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, local airport and airline regulations.

Manager, Flight Operations & Ramp Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 8 years of progressive experience in airline ramp operations and flight dispatch. Directs and coordinates activities of the ramp and flight dispatch operations in accordance with the airline policy and FAA, TSA, local airport regulations and established company policies and procedures. Must be US FAA licensed as an Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircrafts. Must be able to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)

AA/AS degree with 4 years progressive experience in load planning with airline specific certification as load planner. Ensures aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements ensuring that aircraft's operational and structural limitation are not exceeded. Prepares monthly flight activity reports. Must be able to perform manual weight and balance calculations.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 8, 2013

Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

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 - Saturday, January 12th 9:00am - 1:00pm
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234-3925/7

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Deadline nears for essay contest on West Philippine Sea

To educate and raise awareness about issues on the West Philippine Sea (particularly the Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands) with China, Celia Lamkin, chairwoman of the US Pinoys for Good Governance-Marianas chapter, has launched an essay contest for high school and college students.

The contest is open to all Filipino students or of Filipino descent in the Philippines or overseas, from 10 to 25 years old and enrolled in high school or college.

Submissions are being accepted up to Feb. 1, 2013. Entries can be sent by email to usp4ggessay@yahoo.com. The theme of the essay is, "The West Philippine Sea and its impact on the future of the Philippines."

The essay should focus on:

1. Sovereignty or ownership issues of territories in the West Philippine Sea contiguous to the Philippines.

2. How control of Philippine territories and the valuable marine and energy resources found therein can affect the future of generations of Filipinos.

3. How can the youth help defend Philippine sovereignty over our territories and protect the marine and energy resources in the West Philippine Sea?

The essay must be original. It must not be previously published in print or online nor in any visual and/or auditory recording. It must be in English and must not be more than 1,500 typed words.

Prize ranges from 50,000 to 10,000 pesos (\$1,200 to \$240). In the college category, the prizes are P50,000 for first place; P25,000, second place; and P12,000, third place. For the high school category, the prizes are P30,000 for first place; P15,000, second place; and P7,000, third place.

There will be 10 consolation prizes of P2,000 each. The school/college/university of the first prize winning essays will receive a certificate and 20,000 pesos (\$480) each.

Every student entry must contain the confirmation of the school principal, college/university dean or president that the essay is written by and originates

from the student. Signature of the school principal, college or university president or dean, address, email address and telephone number are required to authenticate the student entry.

Only one entry per person will be accepted. The entry form is available at www.uspgg.org. A parental consent, authorization and liability waiver form is required for minor student. Adult students, for their part, must submit a student consent, authorization and liability waiver form. For essay contest rules, visit http://usp4gg.org/aug21/usp4ggcontent/uploads/essay2013/USPGG_EssayContestRules_Final.pdf

A panel of judges, selected by the US Pinoys for Good Governance Ad Hoc Committee for Essay Contest on West Philippine Sea, will make the final decision.

The winners will be announced on Feb. 15, 2013. The awards ceremony will be held during the Global Summit of Filipinos in Diaspora on Feb. 25-27, 2013, at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City, Philippines, where approximately 400

participants from different countries are expected to attend.

"Deadline for submission which is Feb. 1, 2013, is fast approaching. I encourage our eligible high school and college students in the Philippines and around the world to participate in this essay contest. Please don't miss your opportunity to express your thoughts on this very crucial issue concerning our West Philippine Sea," said Lamkin, chairwoman of the essay contest committee.

Attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, USP4GG national chair, said, "This essay contest should alert our younger generation on the wealth of the mother country, the Philippines. No Filipino in the future, if this wealth is not squandered or stolen, should be poor."

For more information on the essay contest, email Lamkin at celia.lamkin@yahoo.com.

For more information on the USP4GG, visit <http://www.uspgg.org/> and for the Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora, visit <http://www.d2d-globalsummit.cfo.gov.ph>. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 8, 1999

Bonus hinges on funds availability

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday assured retirees that they will receive the 30 percent retirement bonus once funding is available, easing fears of hundreds of government employees that they would lose the benefit. "As soon as we have the money they will receive their bonus," the governor said, adding that his administration is not turning its back on its financial responsibility. "There is no question that the government has an obligation and we should pay our obligation to our employees," he said.

Legislator assures hearing on FAS bill

A member of the House of Representatives yesterday said he would press for a public hearing on a pending legislation that will restrict the migration of citizens from the Freely Associated States into the Northern Marianas because of its "sensitive" nature. Rep. Melvin Faisao, chair of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, said the bill, which he introduced should get input from the local community aside from the position of various government departments and agencies. "This is a very sensitive legislation knowing that many FAS citizens have established deep-rooted relationships with the people and their relatives in the CNMI," he told in an interview.

Jan. 8, 2001

New law cuts red tape in DPL

The politics of public land management in the CNMI has assumed a crucial transformation with the implementation of a new law that makes it an independent body under the Commonwealth executive branch. The Division of Public Lands, formerly an agency under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, has transitioned to the Office of Public Land, placing direct authority on the Board of Public Lands all public land management powers and responsibilities. The landmark transition from DPL to OPL is expected to sweep long, drawn-out processes of red tape within the system and fast-track more public land projects, according to OPL Administrator Bertha C. Deleon Guerrero.

New firm to infuse \$1.5M for resto at Saipan airport

A newly-formed company is eyeing the operation of a restaurant at the structure in front of the main terminal building of the Saipan International Airport, which is currently occupied by a car rental facility. Under its proposal submitted to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan Rainbow, Inc. is planning to construct a three-storey building in front of the main terminal for the operation of both a restaurant and a car rental facility. Saipan Rainbow, whose articles of incorporation was executed only in November, is expected to pour in more than \$1.5 million for the design, permit and construction of the building, as well as for the complete operation of the restaurant and car rental facility.

Jan. 8, 2002

'Changes in Senate leadership unlikely'

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday branded as "bogus" earlier reports that senator-elect Diego M. Songao and Sen. Ramon Guerrero will be joining the Republican Party to ensure a GOP-controlled Senate in the 13th Legislature. Adriano insisted that the original composition of the 13th Senate leadership is still intact "and that it's going to remain like that. There are no changes." This comes even as rumors continue to fly over a possible upset in the Senate leadership in the run-up to the January 14 inauguration. Earlier reports said Songao, a Covenant Party member from Rota, and Guerrero, an Independent from Saipan, are being wooed to join the GOP to give the Republican Party majority control of the upper chamber.

No 'sine die' for Senate but House to hold one

The 12th House of Representatives will be holding its sine die, or last, session this Friday not at its usual site-the House chamber-but at the Commonwealth Development Authority building in Gualo Rai. This was decided during yesterday's leadership meeting, after learning that the ongoing renovations being done at the legislative building for the upcoming January 14 inauguration will not be finished by Friday. "Because of some touching up and the ongoing preparation for the inauguration of the chamber, the Speaker [Benigno R. Fitial] wanted to find out if the House chamber will be available for the sine die. Unfortunately, the renovations will not be finished by then, so the sine die will be at the CDA conference room at 10am Friday," said incoming House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Speaker of the House John Boehner administers the oath of office for the 113th Congress to Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). She is joined by, from left, her niece Cathy Ysrael; nephew James Ysrael Gomez, and her sister Diana Ysrael.

Bordallo reintroduces Guam war claims bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) took her oath of office, administered by House Speaker John Boehner, on Jan. 3, 2013, for the 113th Congress. She also hosted an "open house" in recognition of the new Congress, and held a swearing-in ceremony for officers of the Guam Society of America.

As her first legislative act of the 113th Congress, Bordallo reintroduced

H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 113th Congress to continue serving the people of Guam," Bordallo said. "This includes building on the progress we've made in previous years to advance Guam war claims legislation. The text that I introduced in this Congress addresses concerns that have been raised about the

legislation. The text is similar to what I introduced in the 112th Congress; however, it also includes a funding offset for the cost of the bill. A July 2011 hearing clearly identified that fiscal conservatives objected to the cost of the bill regardless of the moral obligation to pass the legislation. My offset would use future additional section 30 funds attributable to the military build-up to pay for claims. The offset

is a credible source of funding that will ensure the payment of claims while leaving the option for direct appropriations by Congress in the future. The compromise continues to uphold the intent of recognizing the people of Guam for their loyalty to the United States during World War II. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House Natural Resources Committee to advance this legislation." (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to my *kumaire*, Betty DLG. Ichiro, and her daughter Leila! May you both have many more birthdays to come.



Happy 4th birthday to Jo-Dean Desiree Leipifisch "Princy." We love you.



Happy 14th birthday to our dearest son, DJ Ong, who is celebrating his special day today, Jan. 8, 2013! We wish you all the best, we are truly proud of you, and we love you so much. Greetings come from Papa and Mama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Installation of New UFO Officers

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and wife Josie join UFO officers and members for a souvenir photo.



Sen. Jude Hofschneider, left, inducts the committee chairpersons.



Past president Bong Malasarte discusses UFO's accomplishments during his term.



UFO president Annamae G. Adaza delivers her acceptance speech.



Past officers pose for a group photo as they hold their certificates of appreciation.



Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, center, is flanked by UFO president Annamae Adaza and past president Bong Malasarte on stage after receiving his certificate of appreciation.



Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, center, accepts his plaque of appreciation as a UFO sponsor through the company's charitable arm, Tan Siu Lin Foundation.



UFO also expressed its appreciation to Docomo Pacific, represented here by Lei Hicaro.



▲ From left to right, UFO president Annamae Adaza, Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr., and past president Bong Malasarte.

◀ Outgoing president Bong Malasarte, fourth right, receives a plaque from other past presidents of the umbrella organization of Filipino groups in the CNMI.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

More cliffs to come

“You never want a serious crisis to go to waste,” Rahm Emanuel famously told a group of corporate executives a little more than four years ago, when he was President-elect Obama’s chief of staff. Emanuel’s words apparently have been forgotten in the nation’s capital, where lawmakers manufactured a potentially serious crisis by timing billions of dollars of tax cuts to expire at the end of 2012, days before huge across-the-board spending cuts were set to take effect. The deal that the Obama administration struck last week with Congress to avoid sending the country over this so-called fiscal cliff did little more than push the tough bargaining off for another day, when the stakes may actually be higher.

We reached this point because Democrats and Republicans have repeatedly failed to reconcile their political and philosophical differences over the struggling economy and the mounting federal debt. The outlines of a “grand bargain” seem obvious: higher taxes, less military spending and slower growth in entitlements, particularly Medicare and other healthcare programs. Such a deal requires members on both sides to depart from party orthodoxy, which means it requires both political courage and the right incentive to act.

One might have thought the fiscal cliff provided that incentive, with the government’s top economists warning that the country would quickly fall into another recession if the across-the-board tax hikes and spending cuts went into effect. Nevertheless, the grand bargain again proved elusive. Granted, the GOP agreed to the first major increase in tax rates in almost two decades, albeit only on some of the households in the top bracket. But the compromise that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., worked out with Vice President Joe Biden raised less than half the revenue President Obama sought, and included none of the simplifying, pro-growth reforms both sides say they support.

The spending cuts, meanwhile, were put on hold for two months, buying time for more talks. But those negotiations will be held in an even more ominous context because the Treasury has reached the limit of its borrowing authority. Republicans are eager to repeat the fight they had with Obama over raising the debt limit in 2011, despite the fact that their willingness to stiff creditors caused the first-ever downgrade in the U.S. credit rating.

Obama insists he won’t negotiate over the debt ceiling this time around, and Democrats seem to believe that they can extract more tax hikes in return for agreeing to curb spending on entitlements. This week’s deal, however, appears to have drained their leverage. In other words, a grand bargain large enough to put Washington’s finances in order may be even harder to reach in a month or two. And the risk is that an impasse will lead the government to default, a calamity that could drive up interest rates, injure the economy and exacerbate the government’s fiscal problems.

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Hey, kids, don't forget your guns

Here we go again. After the tragic school killings in Newtown, Conn., the leader of the National Rifle Association offers a perfectly sensible proposal to put cops with guns in every school—and people jump all over him.

“A paranoid, dystopian vision,” said New York’s anti-gun mayor, Michael Bloomberg. “The most revolting, tone-deaf statement I’ve ever seen,” said Sen.-elect Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat.

But the only problem I can see with the NRA’s proposal is that it doesn’t go far enough. For some reason nobody in this country is willing to admit the obvious, which is that the poor helpless kids in that school could have helped themselves, if only we’d let them.

The time has come to get over our squeamishness and arm the children. If those kids in Connecticut had been allowed to bring firearms to school, it’s doubtful anyone would ever have attempted the kind of assault that so tragically victimized them. If anyone did, the combined firepower of 20 or more armed elementary school pupils in a single classroom would put a stop to it, and far more effectively than a single dozing constable summoned from the opposite end of campus.

Of course, you can’t just give a bunch of kindergartners firearms. They will need training, and the Newtown killings make plain just how deficient our schools are on this score. In most of America you can’t graduate without meeting certain requirements in math, physical education or even a foreign language. But every year, our schools turn loose literally millions of kids lacking the faintest clue about how to engage in armed self-defense. Without these skills, so fundamental to the sustenance of democracy, our young people are defective citizens.

We make vaccinations mandatory for most children; why not firearm training? To be admitted to kindergarten, a child would have to demonstrate basic proficiency with a pistol. After that, no child should be able to advance a grade without meeting certain weapons milestones. And any parent who sends a child to school unarmed should have to explain that action to the child welfare authorities. When I was a boy, our teachers checked to see that we’d brought a handkerchief to class. Why not check for handguns? Think of the possibilities for show and tell!

A few selfish families—pacifists and their ilk—will no doubt be exempted. They won’t mind that their children thus become free riders, sheltering under the protection provided by other kids who pack heat every day in their lunch boxes.

By DAN AKST
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Akst, a former columnist for the Los Angeles Times, is a writer in New York’s Hudson Valley.



Not to worry; I’m convinced that enough red-blooded Americans will show up armed every day to stop any future madmen dead in their tracks. Arming the children would pay a special dividend too: an end to bullying, since even the smallest, most socially awkward child can put a bullet between the eyes of his or her tormentor if properly armed.

And then, of course, there are the teachers. It’s simply unconscionable that these government-salaried educators should ever enter a school building unarmed. As one writer observed in the on-line forum Washington Times Communities, “How different this could have been if, instead of discouraging guns on school property, we welcomed them heartily, accompanied, of course, by strict and proper licensing. How different if the report of the gunman on campus had stirred several teachers or staff members to whip out their own weapons and fire before the masked killer had his way with them.”

Arming teachers could have pedagogical benefits as well, working wonders for school discipline.

Surely even the most demented advocates of gun control must see that, with nearly 300 million privately owned firearms already in circulation, no anti-gun legislation can protect the nation’s schoolchildren from them. Just as the answer to offensive speech is more speech, the answer to a firearm is another firearm—or a couple dozen, which is about how many should be in the average classroom.

As an American, I’m not troubled by the ban on school prayer nearly as much as I am by our refusal to give our children a prayer of defending themselves. Many states already allow concealed firearms on college campuses. Let’s act swiftly to give our precious babies the same chance at life that armed collegians enjoy. If we fail to do so, the blood of future unarmed victims will be on our hands.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Don't think you can stick to your New Year's resolutions? Think again

Every year about this time, I write a list of New Year's resolutions. It's the usual stuff: Work out three times a week, cut back on coffee and alcohol, floss daily, relearn Spanish, watch less television, etc. I then put the list in the drawer of my bedside table, where it remains until I take it out a year later and laugh at my lack of progress.

I'm not alone. The enthusiasm with which Americans make New Year's resolutions is matched only by our chronic inability to see them through. Gyms are packed in January but clear out by March. According to surveys, only about 10 percent of resolutions survive a full year. There's no shortage of good advice on how to bolster willpower, including one piece I'd be smart to take: Don't hide your resolutions in a drawer.

Other ideas include keeping goals realistic, planning how they'll be implemented and enlisting the help of friends and family for encouragement and accountability. These are all helpful tips, but there's one important thing missing: belief. Specifically, recent studies suggest that when it comes to willpower, we get what we expect.

The new findings fly in the face of previous thinking about willpower, which tended to put the emphasis on power. In this way of looking at things, willpower was seen as a muscle that was easily depleted. Newer research casts doubt on this limited-resource theory and instead suggests that we have as much willpower as we expect to have. In this alternative model, willpower works less like a muscle and more like a placebo.

This matters, because willpower's importance goes well beyond

keeping New Year's promises. Indeed, researchers find that willpower (or self-regulation) also predicts academic, professional and financial success better than IQ and other aptitude scores. People with lots of willpower work harder, avoid tempting distractions and persist until a task is completed.

In a 2010 study led by Swiss psychologist Veronika Job when she was at Stanford University, only people who believed that willpower was limited (according to an initial questionnaire) showed evidence of depleted willpower in tests of self-control given after a mentally challenging lab task. Subjects who believed that willpower was unlimited did just as well on follow-up self-control tasks as control subjects facing the task fresh.

When the researchers manipulated people into believing that willpower was limited or unlimited by biasing the initial questionnaire, they performed better or worse depending on their belief in the durability of willpower. And the same pattern held outside the lab. The researchers surveyed college students about their willpower beliefs and then, at various points in the semester, asked about their TV, procrastination and junk-food habits. There were no significant behavioral differences until the stress of final exams, when students who believed that willpower was limited were much more likely to put off pressing work and eat unhealthy snacks.

Another common belief about willpower is that it is taxing—that exercising self-control or willpower burns a lot of energy. But does it? Not according to Robert Kurzban, a University of Pennsylvania psychologist. In a 2010 paper, he noted that the entire brain uses

By **CHRIS BERDIK**

Los Angeles Times

Chris Berdik is a freelance journalist in Boston and the author of Mind Over Mind: The Surprising Power of Expectations. This was written for the Los Angeles Times.



one-quarter of one calorie per minute, on average, and brain scan studies show that only a fraction of the brain is more active when people exercise self-control. As Kurzban noted, people actually perform better on self-control tasks after vigorous exercise, which burns far more calories than self-regulation does.

None of this means that keeping resolutions will be easy. But willpower is most likely to let us down if we expect it to. Take care with your list of resolutions for 2013. Narrow it to the goals you really care about. Make a plan. Get the support of your loved ones. Seek out accountability. For God's sake, don't stuff the list in a drawer. And last, but certainly not least, have faith in your willpower.

Give yourself reasons to believe, despite the sorry statistics and even your own track record. Think back on the many challenges you have mastered, especially when you stumbled along the way. If your goal is important enough to you, chances are you can achieve it, and a little more faith in your willpower could help.

Hillary Clinton and the 'clot plot'

Apparently, if the secretary of state needs to take a sick day, she had better get a note from her doctor. A very "transparent" note, a very detailed note. With enough copies to send to her most vociferous critics.

Hillary Rodham Clinton suffered a fall or a fainting spell in early December while recovering from a nasty flu that had left her dehydrated, and doctors said she had sustained a concussion as a result.

Right away, conservative talking heads scoffed, saying she was faking it so she wouldn't have to appear before Congress and testify about what happened in Benghazi, Libya, where a U.S. ambassador and three other Americans died in what is now being described as an attack by terrorists linked to al-Qaida.

"Help! I've fallen and I can't testify about Benghazi!" Richard Grenell, a political consultant who served in the George W. Bush administration at the United Nations, said on Twitter.

The New York Post called it a "head fake." Columnist and Fox commentator Charles Krauthammer called it "acute Benghazi allergy." Fox's Sean Hannity said he wanted to see the medical report. Outgoing Republican Congressman Allen West described it as a case of "Benghazi flu." Fox News contributor John Bolton, a former American ambassador to the U.N., called it a convenient case of "diplomatic illness." And Republican commentator Monica Crowley called it "a virus with impeccable timing."

A group of commentators called "The Five" on Fox spent a segment laughing and making jokes about Mrs. Clinton's health.

Meanwhile, the European Union Times said that a report is circulating around the Kremlin that the secretary was actually injured

in a military transport crash that claimed the life of a Navy SEAL while the two were on a secret mission to Iran—a report the State Department denied.

Then, early this week, doctors discovered that a blood clot had formed in the secretary's head, between her skull and her brain. She was hospitalized immediately and treated with blood thinners, and her daughter was seen leaving the New York hospital looking distraught.

I'm calling it "The Clot Plot."

Politics is a rough game and not for the thin-skinned, and we expect a vigorous press to show a healthy skepticism of any official statements. And doctor-patient confidentiality takes a back seat to our need to know if our leadership is well enough to do the job.

But if you believe that Mrs. Clinton—the most admired woman in America for the 11th straight year, according to a Gallup poll—faked an illness to avoid answering tough questions about what happened on Sept. 11 at the U.S. Embassy, then you probably also believe that Gen. David Petraeus' abrupt resignation as CIA chief because of an affair was nothing but a ploy to keep him from testifying, too.

Oh. Wait. That was the theory put forth by outraged voices who felt President Barack Obama had something to hide and Gen. David Petraeus took the fall for him.

Though, of course, he did testify. As will Secretary Clinton, I am sure. Although some of those same commentators have speculated that she will claim not to remember what she knew, when she knew it and what she did about it—and blame the concussion.

By **SUSAN REIMER**

The Baltimore Sun

Susan Reimer is a columnist for the Baltimore Sun. Readers may send her email at susan.reimer@baltsun.com.



It has been a long and mean-spirited political season, and we are all still feeling a little raw. But can we agree that Secretary Clinton would have to fake her own death to escape the grilling of Congress on this matter? That a simple knot on the head wasn't going to get it done?

Speaking of play-acting, this little drama has a second act. Critics are also saying that if she does have a blood clot, this would be at least her second one (she had one behind her knee in 1998), and that makes her physically unfit to be president in 2016.

It is possible that Mrs. Clinton will emerge from this health crisis with a fractured memory of what happened in Benghazi. Or, perhaps, of how she was drugged and kept a prisoner in her own home by a strange doctor and men in dark suits wearing sunglasses and ear pieces so that she could not deliver testimony embarrassing to the president.

Could we all please stop acting like we have a medical degree or a movie pitch for Tom Cruise? This is embarrassing.

Gerard Depardieu, tax refugee

French actor Gerard Depardieu has learned how to go from a beloved symbol of a nation to enemy of the state in one easy step. All it takes is wanting to keep some meaningful portion of his income.

Depardieu is a quintessentially French figure. Appearing in more than 150 films, he has played Cyrano and Obélix. He is a Chevalier du Légion d'honneur. He eats and drinks—a lot. He rides a scooter. It would take a diagram to follow his romantic entanglements with models and actresses. It's all very French, except for the fact that he has earned too much money.

At least he has according to the accounting of the Gradgrind socialists who govern France. Elected earlier this year, President Francois Hollande has imposed a 75 percent marginal income tax on top earners. To this prospect, Depardieu said, "Non, merci." He announced his intention to move to a little village over the border in Belgium, where the government imposes plenty of taxes but doesn't aim to impose a punishing tax rate on the wealthy as a matter of justice.

For his offense, Depardieu has been denounced from the commanding heights of the French state. The prime minister called him "pathetic." The budget minister sniffed that his move would

be a boom to Belgian cinema. Hollande urged "ethical behavior" on the part of French taxpayers. They all agree that it's wrong of Depardieu not to stand still so that the government can drastically lighten his wallet.

The "temporary supertax" applies to incomes of more than 1 million euros (roughly \$1.3 million). It is said to be no big deal since it hits only about 1,500 people and is set to last for only two years. But it comes on top of an already-onerous tax burden and is shocking in its own right.

The tax is less fiscal policy than confiscatory policy motivated by unabashed disdain for the wealthy. Hollande is on the record saying, "I don't like the rich." For a career politician like Hollande, the natural order of things is that he gets to live off the government and Depardieu gets to fund it. That's the definition of "fairness."

Depardieu's critics bash his patriotism. But why is it patriotic to accept financial chastisement by a government headed by someone who is avowedly driven by animus toward you as a member of a targeted class?

It's not as though Depardieu is a scofflaw. He claims he has paid 145 million euros in taxes during the course of his career, and paid

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



an 85 percent rate in 2012.

The French constitutional court just ruled against the supertax on technical grounds. The government promises to make adjustments and forge ahead. It can shame Depardieu all it likes, but that won't stop the flow of other, less-famous tax exiles. Hollande doesn't like rich people, and he will duly rule a country with fewer of them.






Gerard Depardieu wrote the prime minister to say he's leaving "because you believe that success, creation, talent—difference, in fact—must be punished."

He's right. May he—dare we say it?—prosper in his new home.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 81

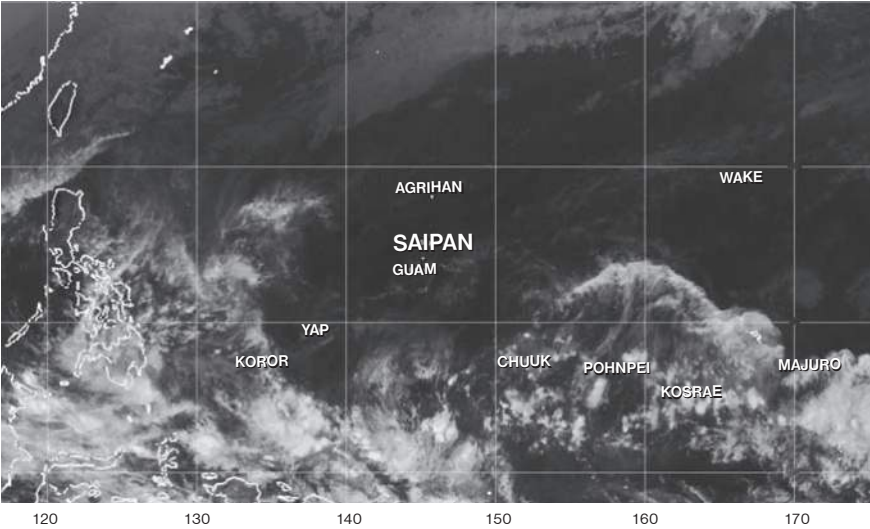
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 6
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 53
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 69
London	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 49
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 38
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 22
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 43
Salem	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 21 ▼ 11
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 36

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
9:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
3:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
11:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N147E to 21N133E then continues as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 21N. Low-level cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 270 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough stretching southward from 14N133E to 10N132E is producing scattered showers northwest of Koror between 14N and 10N from 130E to 135E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 5N130 to end at the equator and 143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Yap and Koror or south of a line from 3N130E to 6N136E to 3N149E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Pohnpei and over Chuuk between 10N and 2N from 149E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 5N160E to 3N171E farther east. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly east of Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls within 150 miles of a line from 3N171E to 3N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:40 AM	2:42 PM
Wednesday	3:43 AM	3:23 PM
Thursday	4:46 AM	4:26 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	5:31 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:34 PM

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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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CAMPUS BULLETIN

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5	UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily
UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily	UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily
UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily	UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7	DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN
OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6
OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN
MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5	MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN
XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM	UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3	UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM
	UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Lenovo to release giant 27-inch 'coffee table PC'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Dismayed that family members are spread out over the house, each with a separate PC or tablet? Lenovo has something it believes will get them back together: a PC the size of a coffee table that works like a gigantic tablet and lets four people use it at once.

Lenovo Group Ltd., one of the world's largest PC makers, is calling the IdeaCentre Horizon Table PC the first "interpersonal computer"—as opposed to a "personal computer."

At first glance, it looks like a regular all-in-one machine in the vein of the iMac: It's a 27-inch screen with the innards of a Windows 8 computer built into it, and it can stand up on a table.

But you can pick it up off the table, unhook the power cord and lay it flat for games of "Mo-

An image provided by Lenoovo shows the IdeaCentre Horizon Table PC that they say is the first "interpersonal computer." It is a PC the size of a coffee table that works like a gigantic tablet and lets four people use it at once.

AP

nopoly."

It's big enough to fit four people around it, and the screen can respond to ten fingers touching it at the same time.

As a tablet, it's a monstrosity. The screen is the size of eight iPads

stitched together, and it weighs 15 pounds. It's almost as homebound as a flat-panel TV.

will go on sale this summer starting at \$1,699. It's being unveiled this week at the International CES gadget show in Las Vegas.

Microsoft Corp. pioneered the idea of a table PC with the Surface, a PC with a 30-inch touch-sensitive screen released in 2008. It was designed for store displays and other commercial applications. The concept is now called PixelSense, as Microsoft started using the "Surface" name for an unrelated tablet computer last year.

More recently, Sony Corp. released the Tap 20, an all-in-one PC that can also be laid flat. But it's smaller than the Lenovo model, at 20 inches diagonally, and doesn't have as much table-oriented software as the Table PC.

The Table PC will include plastic "strikers" for "Air Hockey," and joysticks that attach to the screen for other games, including multiplayer shooter "Raiding Company."

Lenovo, a Chinese company that owns IBM Corp.'s former PC business, said the Table PC

No movement: Lawmakers dig in heels on debt crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional leaders on Sunday showed no signs of emerging from their corners to resolve the next step in the financial crisis, with Democrats still talking about higher taxes on the wealthy and the Senate's top Republican suggesting that a crippling default on U.S. loans was possible unless there were significant cuts in government spending.

"It's a shame we have to use whatever leverage we have in Congress to get the president to deal with the biggest problem confronting our future, and that's our excessive spending," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Last week's deal to avert the combination of end-of-year tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff" held income tax rates steady for 99 percent of Americans but left

some other major pieces of business unresolved.

By late February or early March, the Treasury Department will run out of options to cover the nation's debts and could begin defaulting on government loans unless Congress raises the legal borrowing limit, or debt ceiling. Economists warn that a default could trigger a global recession.

Also looming are deep automatic spending cuts expected to take effect at the beginning of March that could further erode fragile gains in the U.S. economy. Then on March 27, the temporary measure that funds government activities expires, and congressional approval will be needed to keep the government running. It's one more chance to fight over spending.

Lawmakers said debt talks will

consume Congress in the coming weeks, likely delaying any consideration of an expected White House proposal on gun restrictions in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting.

Republicans say they are willing to raise the debt ceiling but insist any increase must be paired with significant savings from Medicare, Medicaid and other government benefit programs. President Barack Obama has said he's willing to consider spending cuts separately but won't bargain over the government's borrowing authority.

"One thing I will not compromise over is whether or not Congress should pay the tab for a bill they've already racked up," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

Democrats said further tax increases for the wealthiest

Americans were still possible as Congress looks to close the gap between revenues and expenditures. Democrats point out that Obama has already agreed to significant spending cuts, and that the latest deal only gets the nation to about half of the revenue it needs to resolve the red ink.

"Trust me, there are plenty of things within that tax code—these loopholes where people can park their money in some island offshore and not pay taxes. These are things that need to be closed. We can do that and use the money to reduce the deficit," said Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the second-ranking Senate Democrat.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said she, too, wants to put "everything on the table from the standpoint of closing loopholes."

But McConnell bluntly declared that the "tax issue is over" after last week's agreement.

"We don't have this problem because we tax too little; we have it because we spend too much," McConnell said.

Making the rounds on the Sunday talk shows, McConnell was asked repeatedly whether Republicans were prepared to see the nation default on its spending obligations. McConnell said that wouldn't be necessary, so long as Obama agrees to the spending cuts.

But at one point, when asked by NBC's David Gregory whether the GOP strategy will be to hold the debt ceiling "ransom" in exchange for spending cuts, McConnell said it was a "shame we have to use whatever leverage we have" to get the president's attention.

Fishermen hoping for help with Sandy storm losses

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. (AP)—While Superstorm Sandy did highly visible damage to homes, boardwalks and roads, it also walloped the Northeastern fishing industry, whose workers are hoping for a small piece of any future disaster assistance that Congress might approve.

The storm did millions of dollars' worth of damage to docks, fish processing plants and restaurants. But it also caused millions more in lost wages to boat employees who couldn't work for two to three weeks, to truck drivers who had nothing to transport, and to other assorted industries that service commercial fishing.

The \$9.7 billion measure to fund the National Flood Insurance program, passed by Congress on Friday, did not include

anything for the fishing industry; a bill the Senate passed in December would have allocated \$150 million for that purpose.

Some of the worst damage to fisheries in the region occurred at the Belford Seafood Cooperative on the Raritan Bay shoreline in Middletown, where the pounding waves destroyed a 75-foot-long dock, gutted a popular restaurant, and ripped away all five garage doors and parts of the exterior of office and storage buildings. The co-op's manager, Joe Branin, estimates the damage at close to \$1 million.

"We went three weeks before we were able to pack a fish," said Branin, whose business was still without electricity in mid-December. "We lost almost all our equipment. It was three weeks before anybody could do

anything."

The restaurant, where diners could eat scallops and fillets literally right off the boat, had provided \$5,000 to \$8,000 a week in revenue that is now gone.

The co-op supported 50 families who either work directly for it or in supporting roles. Many of those workers simply did without a paycheck for weeks afterward. The situation was the same at New Jersey's Viking Village port on Long Beach Island's Barnegat Light, where boats were idled after the storm.

"We couldn't get to work for two weeks because the infrastructure was all torn up here," said Bob Brewster, who owns three of the port's 45 fishing boats and estimates he lost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in lost catch. "We were just twid-

dling our thumbs, waiting to get back out on the water. Everybody wants to make a living, and for a while, we couldn't."

In Hampton Bays, N.Y., Doug Oakland estimated two marinas he owns suffered between \$800,000 and \$1 million in damage. He estimates about a dozen other marinas in the eastern Long Island community were similarly affected.

"The marinas got beat up pretty hard. There's a 75-foot section of our pier that's just gone," he said.

"There was about three to four weeks right after the storm where all the fish kind of disappeared," he said. "The first two weeks, fishermen couldn't even get out because a lot of their gear was buried in sand. With the gas shortage, there were no fuel trucks,

and there really was no market to sell the fish to because nobody had power. There was no sense in even trying to catch them."

Though most of the individual boats up and down the East Coast escaped damage, they were forced to stay at the dock because of a combination of problems.

That included damage to their home ports; torn-up roads that forced street closures and kept workers, truck drivers, and customers from reaching the docks; the disruption to normal fishing patterns after the storm that saw many profitable species chased away until the following year; and even difficulty in getting in and out of ports because of new sand bars.

A strong nor'easter a week after Sandy just made things worse.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama signs bill for Sandy flood insurance claims

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama has signed into law a \$9.7 billion bill to pay flood insurance claims from Superstorm Sandy. The law increases the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA had warned that it was set to run out of money without additional dollars from Congress. The White House said more than 100,000 flood claim payments from Sandy would be delayed without the additional money.

Google executive chairman Schmidt going to NKorea

BEIJING (AP)—The executive chairman of U.S.-based Google, one of the world's largest Internet companies, was traveling Monday to North Korea, a nation with notoriously restrictive online policies. Eric Schmidt, the most high profile U.S. business executive to visit North Korea since young leader Kim Jong Un took power a year ago, was in Beijing and scheduled to depart for Pyongyang aboard a commercial Air China flight. Leading the delegation was former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who has traveled more than a half-dozen times to North Korea over the past 20 years. Richardson called the trip a private, humanitarian mission.

Global regulators agree on bank asset rules

BERLIN (AP)—International banking regulators agreed Sunday on global rules meant to ensure banks keep enough cash in hand to survive future market crises, and gave banks until 2019 to comply fully. The rules will require banks in future to hold enough cash, and assets such as equities, corporate and government bonds that can easily be sold, to tide them over during an acute 30-day crisis. The body that oversees the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, which sets international rules, said Sunday that they will have to hold 60 percent of that amount when the rules start being phased in on Jan. 1, 2015; that will increase by 10 percentage points every year until the standards take full effect at the beginning of 2019.

Nation

Second time with Obama not as thrilling as before

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four years and one re-election after Barack Obama became America's first black president, some of the thrill is gone. Yes, the inauguration of a U.S. president is still a big deal. But the ceremony that Washington will stage in a few weeks won't be the heady, historic affair it was in 2009, when nearly 2 million people flocked to the National Mall to see Obama take the oath of office. This time, District of Columbia officials expect between 600,000 and 800,000 people for Obama's public swearing-in on the steps of the Capitol on Monday, Jan. 21.

"There certainly will not be

the sort of exultation you saw four years ago," said Mike Cornfield, a George Washington University political science professor. One reason why, Cornfield said, is it simply lacks the dramatic transfer of power from one president to the next.

"This is not a change that commands people's interest automatically," Cornfield said. "It's a confirmation of power."

Even Obama acknowledges he's already, shall we say, a little washed-up the second time around.

"I think that a lot of folks feel that, 'Well, he's now president. He's a little grayer. He's a little

older. It's not quite as new as it was,'" the president often told supporters while campaigning for re-election.

His inaugural committee has scaled back to three days of festivities, instead of four. Some changes are on account of the slowly recovering economy and a desire by planners to ease the security burden on law enforcement.

But they also reflect a realization that the thrill for Obama's second inauguration burns a little weaker. There are only two official inaugural balls this year, both at the Washington Convention Center, rather than

10 official balls at multiple locations around town. There will be a parade, but it's expected to be smaller too; about 130 groups and 15,000 people marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House in 2009.

Two weeks before the big day, plenty of hotel rooms still haven't been booked. Four years ago, some hotels sold out months in advance.

Obama will be sworn in first on Jan. 20, the date set by the Constitution, but it will be done in private since the day falls on a Sunday. His public swearing-in the next day also falls on the federal holiday honoring

civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., branding the occasion with another layer of historical significance, especially for African-Americans.

Four years ago, Obama was what the country craved. He was a fresh political face who, with his promise to conduct

Washington's business differently, offered people a reason to hope for change. But those people have now watched him on the job for four years, and are mindful that he didn't keep this town from becoming ever more divided along its partisan fault lines.

Police kill gunman, find 3 more dead in Colo. home

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—SWAT officers who stormed a Colorado home where a gunman had holed up found a horrific scene—four dead bodies including that of the gunman.

Police said the armed man fired shots at officers Saturday from a second-story window before officers killed him. Once inside, they found the bodies of three other adults.

The suspect, whose name was withheld by police, held officers at bay for nearly six hours after neighbors reported gunfire at 3 a.m. inside the modest townhome in the Denver suburb of Aurora, said police Sgt. Cassidee Carlson.

It wasn't known if officers shot the suspect or if he shot himself.

Investigators said two men and a woman appeared to have been killed before officers arrived.

The suspect shot at police who approached the front of the home with an armored vehicle and who fired tear gas around 8:15 a.m. He was killed when he fired at officers

from the second-story window about 45 minutes later, Carlson said.

"After we arrived on scene, there were no more shots fired up until he fired at us," Carlson said. "During this time he was all over the house. He moved furniture. He was throwing things. He was agitated. He was irrational."

A large front window was missing in the two-story townhome, the window's mini-blinds in disarray. Bullet holes marked two upstairs windows, and neighbors milled about outside. A fifth person escaped unharmed and called police to report that she saw three people inside the home who "appeared lifeless," said Carlson, who declined to elaborate about the woman's escape.

A motive for the killings was unknown, and police had yet to say what weapon or weapons were used. Investigators wearing gloves and carrying evidence bags were going over the crime scene.

Police declined to release the victims' names.



AP
President Barack Obama walks with daughter Malia on the first family's return from vacationing in Hawaii, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

Sources: Obama to nominate Hagel as Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will nominate Chuck Hagel as his next defense secretary, a senior administration official said Sunday, choosing a former Senate colleague and a decorated Vietnam veteran and signaling he's ready for a contentious confirmation fight likely dominated by questions about Hagel's stands on Israel and Iran.

Obama, who avoided a Capitol Hill battle by deciding not to nominate U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice as his first choice for secretary of state, went ahead with Hagel, 66, even as leading Republicans announced their opposition—though they stopped short of saying they might try to block Hagel.

Seeking to soften the ground, the White House was alerting Senate Democrats that Hagel's

selection as the successor to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in Obama's second-term Cabinet was imminent, according to a congressional official.

Obama, who returned to Washington on Sunday from his Hawaiian vacation, was expected to nominate Hagel on



Hagel

Monday. Congress is on break this coming week.

The officials requested anonymity in order to discuss Hagel's nomination ahead of Obama.

Hagel, a moderate Republican, built a strong relationship with Obama during their travel as senators. But the former Nebraska lawmaker has faced withering criticism from Congress since emerging as the front-runner for the Pentagon post.

Hagel is the second straight Obama favorite for a top national security post to face criticism

from Capitol Hill even before being nominated. Rice withdrew her name from consideration for secretary of state amid charges from GOP senators that she misled the public in her initial accounting of the attacks on Americans at a diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya.

After Rice withdrew, Obama named Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., to lead the State Department. Kerry is expected to be easily confirmed by his longtime Senate colleagues.

If confirmed, Hagel would take over a Pentagon that faces budget cuts and a scaling back of the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. Afghan President Hamid Karzai is expected to meet with Obama in Washington this week to discuss the U.S. presence in Afghanistan after the war formally concludes at the end of 2014.

Hagel is likely to support a more rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hearing may be 'mini-trial' in theater shootings

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—The suspect in the Colorado movie theater killings returns to court this week for a hearing that might be the closest thing to a trial the victims and their families will get to see. James Holmes, a former neuroscience graduate student, is charged with killing 12 people and injuring 70 by opening fire in a darkened theater in the Denver suburb of Aurora last July. At a weeklong preliminary hearing starting Monday, prosecutors will outline their case against Holmes, the first official public disclosure of their evidence. The judge will then determine whether to send the case to trial. Legal analysts say that evidence appears to be so strong that Holmes may well accept a plea agreement before trial. In such cases, the preliminary hearing can set the stage for a deal by letting each side assess the other's strengths and weaknesses, said Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor and now a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Couple dead, boy among injured in Mass. condo fire

CHELMSFORD, Mass. (AP)—Fire tore through a northeastern Massachusetts condominium building, killing a couple in their late 60s or early 70s and injuring four of their relatives,

including a 7-year-old boy who suffered serious burns, the state's fire marshal said Sunday. The fire in Chelmsford began at about 11 p.m. Saturday. State Fire Marshal Stephen said he believes the fire started accidentally in the couple's home on the top floor of the four-story building, one of several in the complex. The victims' names haven't been released. Coan said the man who died used a wheelchair, which impeded efforts to get him out of the condo.

Fla. couple charged after 300 animals found in home

OLDSMAR, Fla. (AP)—A southwest Florida couple have been charged with animal cruelty and child abuse after authorities responding to a call about a missing child discovered 300 neglected animals in their home, including three dead rats and a dead hamster. Pinellas County Sheriff's officials responded to the Oldsmar home Sunday after receiving a call from Jeffrey O'Neil and Jennifer Kovacs about the 16-month-old girl's disappearance. Authorities say she was found unharmed at the home of a relative who took her after trying unsuccessfully to awaken the allegedly intoxicated couple. Deputies said they found hundreds of snakes, lizards, rats, birds and rabbits being kept in deplorable conditions inside the house. They said the animals were being bred and sold without the proper licensing.

Asia

PH army, police kill 13 suspects in clash

ATIMONAN, Philippines (AP)—Philippine army special forces and police killed 13 suspected criminals in a fierce gun-battle in a northeastern province in the latest recent violence in the country.

A police officer was wounded in Sunday's shootout, which raged for about 20 minutes in the coastal town of Atimonan in Quezon province, about 140 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of Manila, the capital, according to the police and the army.

The gunmen, who were riding in two black SUVs, opened fire on more than 50 army soldiers and police when they were flagged down at a highway checkpoint, sparking the firefight, said Lt. Col. Monico Abang, who led the army platoon in the clash. More gunmen fired from a third vehicle, which turned around and fled, he said. Two gunmen jumped out of one of the SUVs and fired from a roadside canal. The rest stayed in the two vehicles, which were raked by gunfire from troops in a sparsely-populated stretch of the highway, Abang said. The area was closed off to traffic and then reopened late Sunday, with the two bullet-riddled SUVs still partially blocking the dark highway.

Quezon provincial police chief Valeriano de Leon said 11 gunmen died at the scene of the



Passengers look at the bullet-riddled vehicle of suspected criminals along a road in the town of Atimonan in Quezon province, about 140 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines late Sunday Jan. 6, 2013. AP

clash. Two others died while being brought to a hospital, he said, adding that government forces recovered two assault rifles and 12 pistols used by the gunmen.

"They rolled down their windows and started firing, so we had to retaliate," Abang said by cellphone from the scene of the

clash. "They were clearly outnumbered and outgunned."

A police colonel was shot in the hand and foot and taken to a hospital, de Leon said. Abang said the army and police had set up the checkpoint after an informant told police that gunmen involved in illegal drugs, gambling and kidnapping for

ransom would pass through Atimonan in mountainous Quezon, where communist guerrillas have a presence.

An initial investigation showed that the gunmen were likely members of a gun-for-hire group operating in provinces south of Manila, Abang said. One dead gunman had a police

identification card and investigators were trying to confirm his identity, he said.

The shootout followed two other deadly shootings that have revived calls for tighter gun control in the Philippines, where there are more than half a million unlicensed firearms, according to police estimates.

A man who reportedly was drunk and high on drugs killed eight people before being gunned down by police on Friday in Kawit town in Cavite province, 16 kilometers (10 miles) south of Manila.

A 7-year-old girl died a day after being hit in the head by a stray bullet while watching fireworks with her family on New Year's Eve outside their home in Caloocan city, near Manila, despite a high-profile government campaign against powerful firecrackers and celebratory gunfire by Filipinos to welcome 2013.

Earlier Sunday, before the shootout, presidential spokeswoman Abigail Valte told reporters that President Benigno Aquino III, a known gun enthusiast, would study gun-control proposals with other officials. Among the proposals is a call by anti-gun groups to ban the carrying of firearms by civilians outside their homes.

The proliferation of firearms has long fueled crime, political violence and Muslim and communist rebellions that have raged for decades in parts of the Philippines. Previous attempts by authorities to clamp down on unregistered weapons have yielded few results in a country where several politically powerful clans and families control private armed groups in provincial strongholds outside Manila.

China officials take blame in deadly shelter fire

BEIJING (AP)—A local Chinese government on Saturday admitted it had tolerated the existence of an illegally run orphanage where six children and one young adult died in a house fire.

The Lankao county government in central China's Henan province said Yuan Lihai, operator of the shelter, illegally took in and cared for 18 abandoned children and young adults at her home but that the government turned a blind eye to it in consideration of her "kind-hearted acts," reported People.com.cn, the official website of the party-run People's Daily.

"There is a direct relationship between today's situation and the fact that some related government departments failed to enforce supervision and loosened management on purpose," deputy county governor Wu Changsheng said at a Saturday press conference as quoted by the news report. "They should shoulder responsibility, and that's a loop-hole in our work."

Wu also told reporters that the local government had provided some assistance to

Yuan to help her care for the children.

The deaths have spotlighted China's lack of government-run child services, which have often been left to private citizens with few resources and no legal authority. It is unclear whether Yuan would be punished.

On China's social media, the public have shown overwhelming sympathy toward Yuan. A Saturday editorial by the official Xinhua News Agency blamed the local government's inaction and media—who had previously praised Yuan's actions—for the tragedy.

"The selective blindness of the local government and media reports prior to the tragedy has turned out to be more dangerous than the fire itself," the editorial read. "And until those with the power to rectify these issues open their eyes, similar tragedies are bound to happen."

The fire broke out at Yuan's home Friday, killing one 20-year-old man and six children aged from seven months to about five years old, the local government said in an official statement on its website.

Pakistani officials say US drones kill 9 militants

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected American drones fired several missiles into three militant hideouts near the Afghan border on Sunday, killing nine Pakistani Taliban fighters, intelligence officials said.

The strikes targeted the group's hideouts in the South Waziristan tribal region, the three officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The identity of the killed militants was not immediately known, they said, but two important commanders of the Pakistani Taliban—including the head of a training unit for suicide bombers—may be among them.

Sunday's drone attack was

the third suspected U.S. drone strike in five days. One such hit late Wednesday night killed a top Pakistani militant commander, Maulvi Nazir, accused of carrying out deadly attacks against American and other targets across the border in Afghanistan. That attack was followed close on by another strike on Thursday in the North Waziristan tribal area.

Islamabad opposes the use of U.S. drones on its territory, but is believed to have tacitly approved some strikes in past. The drone campaign also infuriates many Pakistanis who see them as a violation of their country's sovereignty. Many Pakistanis complain that innocent civilians

have also been killed, something the U.S. rejects.

But an attack like Sunday's may be less likely to anger the Pakistani military and public because it targeted militants believed to have been going after targets in Pakistan and not in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Pakistani intelligence officials said that informants had told them one of the two dead commanders was Wali Muhammad Mahsud, also known as Toofan, who headed a wing of the group that trained suicide bombers. His predecessor, Qari Husain Mehsud, was believed to have been killed in a U.S. missile strike in late 2011.

Mahsud was part of the Paki-

stani Taliban that have waged a bloody war against the Pakistani state by targeting army, police, government officials, civilians and even religious leaders who wouldn't agree to their interpretation of Islam. The Pakistani Taliban demand that the state should sever ties with the U.S. and amend the constitution to enforce a Sharia based Islamic system in the country.

In December, a Taliban suicide bomber killed a top government minister, Bashir Ahmad Bilour, who came from an anti-militant political party in northwest Pakistan and abducted and beheaded several Pakistani paramilitary troops and tribal police.

It seems the police brutality has contributed to the growing of terrorism."

Indonesia has struggled against militants seeking a Muslim state since its independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, some of the militants came under the influence of al-Qaida while waging jihad in Afghanistan. On their return to Indonesia, they carried out four major bombings against foreign targets between 2002 and 2009.

Indonesian anti-terror squad criticized for deaths

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's U.S.-funded police anti-terror squad has killed seven suspected militants recently, reviving allegations that the force is not trying to take suspects alive—a trend that appears to be fueling the very extremism the predominantly Muslim country is trying to counter.

Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said Sunday that no shots were fired against officers during three related raids Friday and Saturday in

eastern Indonesia, but that the suspects in at least one of the locations had explosives that were "ready" to be detonated. He said that officers from the anti-terror squad, known as Densus 88, had followed procedures because the suspects were endangering their lives, but gave few details.

Haris Azhar, chairman of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence, an independent human rights group, said it appeared that the suspected militants were vic-

tims of "extrajudicial killings" and called for an independent investigation. He said Densus 88's tactics were driving militancy because they added to feelings among some Muslims that they were under siege.

"I'm worried about the deteriorating public sympathy for police who continue to use violence," he said, alleging that some suspects in the past have been shot in front of their children. "There has never been any evaluation of Densus' ac-

World

Egypt Copts mark Christmas with fear of future

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's minority Christians were celebrating their first Christmas after the election of an Islamist president and a new pope—and following adoption of a constitution many argue has an Islamist slant.

Christians gathered in Cairo's main cathedral Sunday for Midnight Mass on the eve of Orthodox Christmas led by their new pope. Pope Tawadros II was elected in November to replace longtime Pope Shenouda III, who died in March after 40 years as the leader of the church.

Islamist President Mohamed Morsi called Tawadros with Christmas greetings and sent one of his aides to the Christmas mass.

Concerned for their future and their ancient heritage in Egypt, some Copts are reportedly considering leaving the country.

As Egypt struggles with the role of religion in society, many Copts are aligning themselves with moderate Muslims and secular Egyptians who also fear the rise of Islamic power.

Amir Ramzy, a Coptic Christian and a judge in Cairo's court of appeals, said Christmas is a chance to retreat and pray for a "better Egypt."

"Christians are approaching Christmas with disappointment, grief and complaints, fearing not only their problems but Egypt's situation in general," Ramzy said. "During the reign of (ousted President Hosni) Mubarak and the (military rulers), mainly Christians were facing problems, but now with the Muslim Brotherhood leaders, each and every moderate Egyptian is facing problems."

In one of his first public messages after his enthronement, Tawadros said the ouster of Mubarak opened the way for a larger Coptic public role, encouraging them to participate in the nation's evolving democracy.

Egypt's Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's 85 million people, have long complained of discrimination by the state and the country's Muslim majority.



Pope Tawadros II, the 118th pope of the Coptic Church of Egypt, is greeted by Egyptian Christians as he prepares to lead a midnight Mass on the eve of Egyptian Orthodox Christmas at St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt, late Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

Egypt shakes up Cabinet, appoints 10 new ministers

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt swore in 10 new ministers on Sunday in a Cabinet shake-up aimed at improving the government's handling of the country's ailing economy ahead of talks this week with the International Monetary Fund over a badly needed \$4.8 billion loan.

The reshuffle, which President Mohammed Morsi had promised in response to public anger over Egypt's economic malaise, affected two key ministries, the interior and finance. It also solidified Islamist control of the government, putting three portfolios in the hands of members of the president's Muslim Brotherhood.

The dire state of Egypt's economy was punctuated Sunday by new central bank figures that put

December's foreign currency reserves at \$15.01 billion, down \$26 million from a month earlier. The reserves have dropped by more than half since the uprising that ousted longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.

The central bank said last month that current reserve levels represent a "critical minimum."

Morsi met with the new ministers after their swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in Cairo where they discussed ways to revive tourism and attract foreign investors, a presidential official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Prime Minister Hesham Kandil, meanwhile, said he stressed in his first meeting

with the new ministers the need for immediate action to stabilize the economy.

At the heart of those efforts lies the \$4.8 billion loan that Egypt has requested from the IMF. Cairo says the funds are needed to bolster confidence in the country's economy and attract foreign investors.

Egypt asked the IMF for a delay in the talks on the loan after a wave of political turmoil erupted in December over a contentious new constitution. Mass protests and street violence tied to the constitution dealt yet another blow to major foreign currency earners, including tourism and foreign investment.

The unrest also sparked a rush on U.S. dollars by worried residents and led to a drop

in the Egyptian pound, which shed nearly four percent of its value against the dollar over the past two weeks.

The opposition, a coalition of liberal, secular-leaning, and leftist groups, was not offered any seats in the new Cabinet and has said that any government shake-up that doesn't replace Kandil falls short of what is needed.

The two most important changes affect the finance and interior ministries.

El-Morsi Hegazy, a professor of public finance at Alexandria University, takes over the Finance Ministry, replacing Mumtaz el-Said, who was appointed by the country's transitional military rulers and widely viewed as being at odds with the Brotherhood.

Clashes with Muslims have occasionally broken out, sparked by church construction, land

disputes or Muslim-Christian love affairs.

Following the ouster of Mubarak

in 2011, sectarian violence rose, and attacks on churches sent thousands of Coptic pro-

testers into the streets. A protest in October 2011 was violently quelled by the country's military

rulers, leaving 26 people dead and sparking further outrage.

Ereny Rizk, 34, whose brother George died in that incident, said it was the second Christmas without him, but that the election of a new pope has raised her spirits.

"I felt like he's my father. Having him lessened the severity of my grief," she said. "I definitely thought about leaving the country, but two things stopped me. First the churches and the monasteries in Egypt, our heritage that I'll be missing. Also, I decided not to let my brother's blood go in vain."

The violence has abated, and 2012 was characterized more by the struggle for political and religious rights, said Hossam Bahgat, the director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.

"It is not actual frequent sectarian violence, it is fear of further marginalization and second class citizenship," he said, adding that Egypt has been deeply polarized as it drafted the constitution. Christians and liberals walked out of the committee writing it, complaining that their concerns were not being addressed by the Islamist majority.

Youssef Sidhom, the editor of Egypt's main Coptic newspaper, Watani, said Christians are more concerned for the identity of Egypt, saying that legislation based on the new constitution will be focus of attention out of fear of restrictions on the way of life of Christians and their freedom of worship and expression.

"Egypt is stepping into 2013 split and divided between Copts and moderate Muslims on one side confronting political Islam and fundamentalists on the other side," Sidhom said. "It will only be (resolved) through reconciliation, and this is the challenge that we will have to meet."

Ishak Ibrahim, a researcher with EIPR who monitors religious freedom cases in Egypt, said Coptic Christians are facing two new sets of problems: cases of insulting Islam and fear for their life style because of increasingly assertive radical Islamists.

Defiant Assad pledges to continue fighting

BEIRUT (AP)—A defiant Syrian President Bashar Assad rallied a chanting and cheering crowd Sunday to fight the uprising against his authoritarian rule, dismissing any chance of dialogue with "murderous criminals" that he blames for nearly two years of violence that has left 60,000 dead.

In his first public speech in six months, Assad laid out terms for a peace plan that keeps himself in power, ignoring international demands to step down and pledging to continue the battle "as long as there is one terrorist left" in Syria.

"What we started will not stop," he said, standing at a lectern on stage at the regal Opera House in central Damascus—a sign by the besieged leader that he sees no need to hide or compromise even with the violent civil war closing in on his seat of power in the capital.

The theater was packed with his supporters who interrupted the speech with applause, cheers and occasional fist-waving chants, including "God, Bashar and Syria!" The overtures that Assad offered—a national reconciliation conference, elections and a

new constitution—were reminiscent of symbolic changes and concessions offered previously in the uprising that began in March 2011. Those were rejected at the time as too little, too late.

The government last year adopted a constitution that theoretically allows political parties to compete with Assad's ruling Baath Party. It carried out parliamentary elections that were boycotted by his opponents.

Assad demanded that regional and Western countries must stop funding and arming the rebels trying to overthrow him.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ivory Coast report: Many factors caused stampede

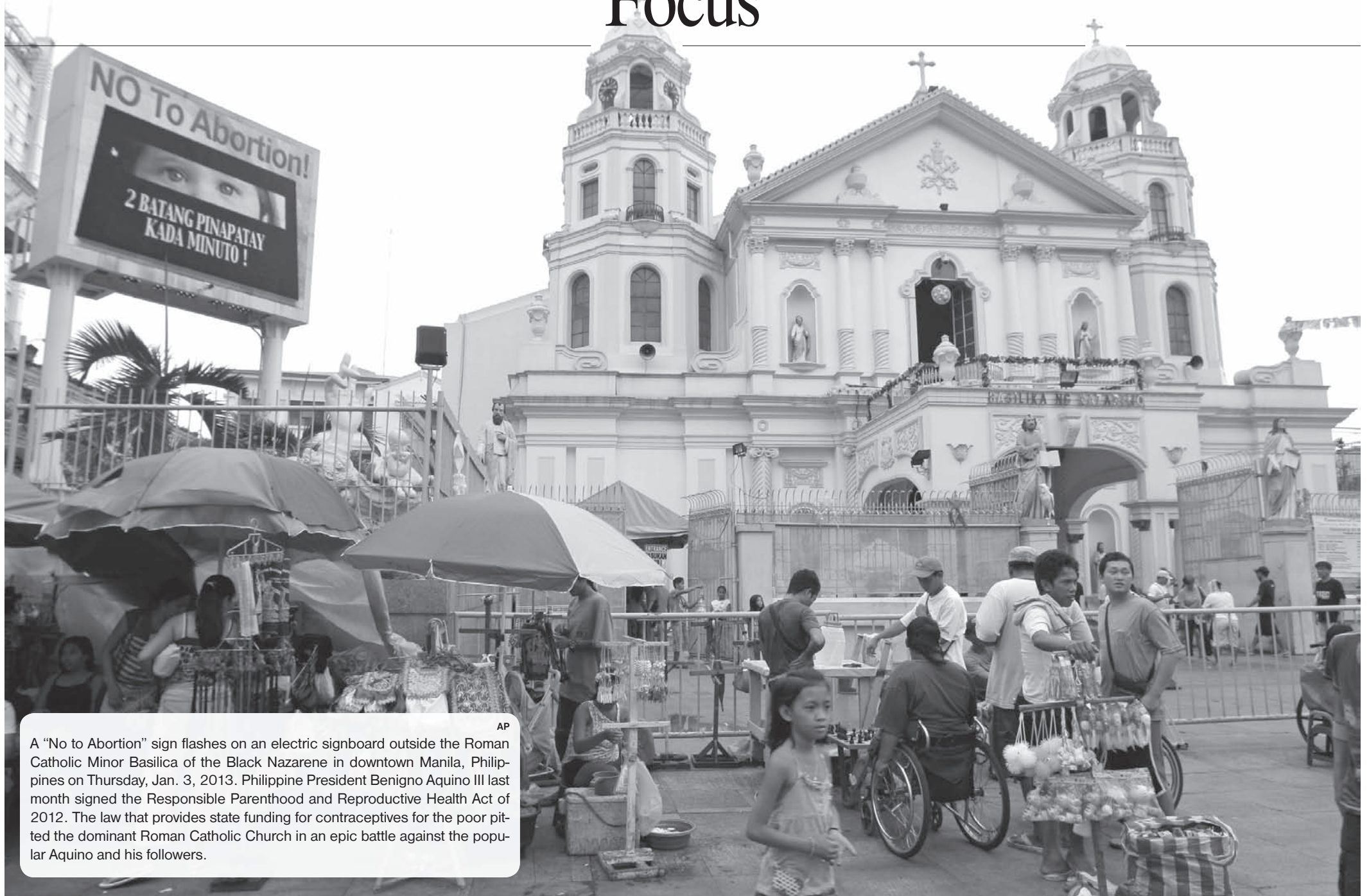
ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Officials say that the New Year's stampede in Ivory Coast which killed 64 people was caused by a combination of several factors including unofficial tree trunk barricades, the narrowing of a major thoroughfare, bad lighting and a shortage of police officers. Abidjan prosecutor Simplicie Kouadio announced the preliminary findings of a police investigation on state television Saturday night. According to the report, a

"human wave" of people leaving a New Year's fireworks display was confronted by a group of people going in the opposite direction on the Boulevard de la Republique by the Houphouet Boigny stadium.

US family builds Haiti orphanage for daughter

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—An American family who lost their daughter in a massive earthquake in Haiti three years ago has finished building an orphanage in her memory. The parents of Britney Gengel, Leonard and Cherylann, led about 150 family and friends, including U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Worcester, in a solemn ceremony Saturday at the Be Like Brit orphanage in the coastal town of Grand Goave. "It was a beautiful ceremony and had a great dedication," said Leonard Gengel, 52, of Rutland, Massachusetts. The brick-and-mortar homage cost about \$1.8 million to build, all raised through donations. The 19,000-square-foot (nearly 1,800-square-meter) facility has seismically resistant walls and a medical clinic.

Focus



AP
A "No to Abortion" sign flashes on an electric signboard outside the Roman Catholic Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in downtown Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013. Philippine President Benigno Aquino III last month signed the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012. The law that provides state funding for contraceptives for the poor pitted the dominant Roman Catholic Church in an epic battle against the popular Aquino and his followers.

New law points to Philippine church's waning sway

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Twenty-six years after Roman Catholic leaders helped his mother marshal millions of Filipinos in an uprising that ousted a dictator, President Benigno Aquino III picked a fight with the church over contraceptives and won a victory that bared the bishops' worst nightmare: They no longer sway the masses.

Aquino last month signed the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 quietly and without customary handshakes and photographs to avoid controversy. The law that provides state funding for contraceptives for the poor pitted the dominant Catholic Church in an epic battle against the popular Aquino and his followers.

A couple with links to the church filed a motion Wednesday to stop implementation of the law, and more petitions are expected. Still, there is no denying that Aquino's approval of the legislation has chipped away at the clout the church has held over Filipinos, and marked the passing of an era in which it was taboo to defy the church and priests.

Catholic leaders consider the law an attack on the church's core values—the sanctity of life—saying that contraceptives promote promiscuity and destroy life. Aquino and his allies see the legislation as a way to address how the poor—roughly a third of the country's

94 million people—manage the number of children they have and provide for them. Nearly half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unwanted, according to the U.N. Population Fund, and a third of those end up aborted in a country where abortion remains illegal.

Rampant poverty, overcrowded slums, and rising homelessness and crime are main concerns that neither the church nor Aquino's predecessors have successfully tackled.

"If the church can provide milk, diapers and rice, then go ahead, let's make more babies," said Giselle Labadan, a 30-year-old roadside vendor. "But there are just too many people now, too many homeless people, and the church doesn't help to feed them."

Labadan said she grew up in a God-fearing family but has defied the church's position against contraceptives for more than a decade because her five children, age 2 to 12, were already far too many for her meager income. Her husband, a former army soldier, is jobless.

She said that even though she has used most types of contraceptives, she still considers herself among the faithful. "I still go to church and pray. It's a part of my life," Labadan said.

"I have prayed before not to have another child, but the condom worked better," she said.

The law now faces a legal challenge

in the Supreme Court after the couple filed the motion, which seems to cover more ideological than legal grounds. One of the authors of the law, Rep. Edcel Lagman, said Thursday that he was not worried by the petition and expected more to follow.

"We are prepared for this," he said. "We are certain that the law is completely constitutional and will surmount any attack on or test of its constitutionality."

“People today are more practical. In the old days, people feared that if you defy the church, it will be the end of the world.”

Over the decades, moral and political authority of the church in the Philippines is perceived to have waned with the passing of one of its icons, Cardinal Jaime Sin. He shaped the role of the church during the country's darkest hours after dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law starting in 1972 by championing the cause of civil advocacy, human rights and freedoms. Sin's action mirrored that of his strong backer, Pope John Paul II, who himself challenged communist rulers in Eastern Europe.

Three years after Aquino's father, Benigno Aquino Sr., a senator opposing Marcos, was gunned down on the

Manila airport tarmac in 1983, Sin persuaded Aquino's widow, Corazon, to run for president. When massive election cheating by Marcos was exposed, Sin went on Catholic-run Radio Veritas in February 1986 to summon millions of people to support military defectors and the Aquino-led opposition. Marcos fled and Aquino, a deeply religious woman, was sworn in as president.

Democracy was restored, but the country remained chaotic and mired in nearly a dozen coup attempts. The economy stalled, poverty persisted and the jobless were leaving in droves for better-paying jobs abroad as maids, teachers, nurses and engineers. After Aquino stepped down, the country elected its first and only Protestant president, Fidel Ramos. He, too, opposed the church on contraceptives and released state funds for family planning methods.

Catholic bishops pulled out all the stops in campaigning against Ramos' successor, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, a hero of the impoverished masses who made little attempt to keep down his reputation for womanizing, drinking and gambling.

But few heeded the church's advice. Estrada was elected with the largest victory margin in Philippine history. Halfway through his six-year presidency, in January 2001, he was confronted with another "people power" revolt,

backed by political opponents and the military, and was forced to resign.

His successor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, styled herself as a devout Catholic and sought to placate the church by abolishing the death penalty and putting brakes on the contraceptives law, which languished in Congress during her nine years in power.

It mattered little. Arroyo's mismanagement and corruption scandals set the stage for Aquino's election on a promise to rid the Philippines of graft, fix the economy and lift millions out of poverty. The scion of the country's democracy icon took power several years after Sin's death, but it was a different era in which the church was battered by scandals of sexual misconduct of priests and declining family values.

The latest defeat of the church "can further weaken its moral authority at a time when this is most badly needed in many areas, including defense of a whole range of family values," said the Rev. John J. Carroll, founding chairman of the Jesuit-run John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues. He said he wondered how many Catholics have been "turned off" by incessant sermons and prayers led by the church against the contraceptives law, and how much it contributed to rising anticlericalism and the erosion of church authority.

"People today are more practical," said Labadan, the street vendor. "In the old days, people feared that if you defy the church, it will be the end of the world."

Overdrive

Nissan ups the market appeal of the Sentra

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

It's been 30 years since the first Nissan Sentra was launched in the U.S. market, competing with the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla. This mighty trio dominated the compact class in the late 1980s, with the Sentra finding more than 300,000 buyers at its sales peak.

The 2012 Sentra still attracts buyers, but its sales are nowhere near those sales heights. The sixth-generation model's distinctive style may be too adventurous for this conservative buyer segment.

In reworking the Sentra for the seventh time, Nissan mellowed the styling excesses, giving this car the smooth, upscale look the company used on the midsize Altima. Designers reinforced the upmarket appeal by employing a large chrome grille—a rarity in this segment—and headlights laced with a strip of LED lights. In the rear, LED taillights are standard. Combined with its artful side window shape, which gracefully flows rearward to a point, this seventh-generation Sentra should age a bit more gracefully than the current model.

The premium feel continues once you open the door. Inside, little things give this inexpensive car the suggestion of being more expensive, even if its plastic trim tells you otherwise.

The car's instrument panel features natural organic shapes. Its knobs are trimmed in chrome. There are soft surfaces on the center console and door panels to rest your arms. The headliner is made of handsomely textured material, rather than the usual uninspired mouse fur. There's even a rear center armrest—an item usually cut by tight-fisted bean counters to save money.

But the truest luxury here is space, and the car has a remarkable amount, both in the front and rear seats. There's plenty of room to hold my six-foot-three frame. More remarkably, Nissan increased the trunk space to a generous 15.1 cubic feet, so there's little reason to pack lightly.

Once you fill the Sentra with friends, family, cargo and pets, you'll want to move.

For this task, Nissan has designed a new double-overhead-cam 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine that produces 130 horsepower and 128 foot-pounds of torque. Regardless of model—base S model, value-oriented SV, sporty SR or top-of-the-line SL—power remains the same for the time being. All Sentras come a new continuously variable automatic transmission. Known as a CVT, this tranny constantly varies the gear ratios to ensure the optimal fuel economy and performance. Disappointingly, only the base S models can be fitted with a six-speed manual transmission. Even the sporty SR trim comes with the CVT.

"We don't think the take rate will



For 2013, Nissan gave the Sentra its seventh redesign since its debut in the 1980s.

NISSAN/MCT

be all that significant when we have a CVT that performs like this one," said John Curl, senior manager of product planning.

That might be overstating the case, but it's hard to argue given that the revisions Nissan made to this CVT. It's remarkably smooth and responsive, lacking the rubber-banding feel typical of CVTs, although that trait isn't entirely banished. Power seems more than sufficient for the Sentra's daily driving duties, but bursts of speed call for a bit of planning due to the CVT, which lacks a manual shift mode featured on competitor's CVTs.

mode splits the two. My guess? Most drivers will rarely switch between modes.

There's more than enough power on tap for most drivers. The engine is fairly quiet except when pushed. Then, it moans forlornly, typical of a driveline using a CVT.

Fuel economy is fairly good. Although the EPA hasn't yet rated the Sentra, Nissan expects it to return 30 mpg city, 39 mpg highway. A forthcoming FE-Plus model will increase the highway mileage by one mpg, but it will cost an extra \$400.

Nissan achieved this through a number of weight-reduction measures, including the use of lightweight high-strength steel. Still, you can feel engine and chassis vibrations in the floor and front-door armrests.

When it comes to taking the Sentra through the twisties, you'll find it to be agile but not sporty, with the wide turning radius typical of Nissans. Body lean is controlled, but it's no sports sedan.

The Sentra's comfortable ride and quiet cabin takes precedent over sporting pretensions. Soft, supportive cloth seats and an inviting instrument panel design mimics some of the exterior's flowing looks.

I sampled both an SV and SL model.

The SV had standard power door locks and windows, 16-inch wheels, six-speaker audio system, sunglass holder, sun visor extenders, vanity mirrors, tilt steering wheel, steering wheel controls for the audio system, trip computer and cruise control and chrome accents.

Making this car much more inviting were two option packages. The \$650 Navigation Package adds a 5.8-inch touch screen with a navigation system with traffic and weather

information, a rear-view monitor, a hands-free text messaging assistant, Pandora radio capability and a system that allows you to send Google directions to the car's nav system. This package also is available on SR and SL models.

In addition, the SV I was driving included the \$1,000 Driver's Package, which includes a keyless push-button starter, USB connector, SiriusXM satellite radio, Bluetooth phone capability, automatic head lights and leather-trimmed steering wheel and shift knob. This package can be added to the SR, which also gets rear disc brakes. The package is standard on SLs.

Altogether, the SV, which started at \$17,970, squeaked in just under 20 grand at \$19,750, a price many buyers will find palatable. By contrast, the SL I also sampled started at that price, but had the Driver's Package standard. It also had the \$1,000 Navigation Package, a \$1,030 Leather Package with leather trimmed seats, heated front seats and rear disc brakes. Guiding the lily was the \$1,200 Premium Package, with a Bose 8-speaker audio system, power moonroof and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror. That's a fully loaded car, one that will cost \$23,420; not bad for a car that has all of the options one could want in a small car. Still, the SL doesn't feel a lot more luxurious, despite the presence of wood trim and leather seats.

The Sentra is a car whose styling may stir your emotions, while its price will appeal to your practical side. And while it is frugal to drive with nimble handling, enthusiast drivers will want to wait for the sporty SE-R model that's sure to follow.

For the rest of us, there's little reason to wait. With this new model, the Sentra once more re-enters the mainstream with the space and styling to capture their hearts and a price that's sure to please their wallets. The driving experience may not be sporty, but most drivers won't care.

MOTORING Q&A

2001 Lexus transmission catches while in reverse

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I'm having a problem with the automatic transmission in my '01 Lexus ES with 125,000 miles on it. The reverse gear hesitates when I shift into reverse, catches, hesitates again, then catches and moves the car. The problem is not present when the engine is cold but appears after warm-up. It hasn't gotten worse over the last year but is especially bad when backing up an incline. A transmission mechanic suggested I use reverse gently but it would likely need a rebuild. I did have the transmission serviced several months before the problem started. Any thoughts?

Answer: Was the transmission fluid and filter changed at a dealership or independent shop? Toyota specifies a specific transmission fluid, ATF Type T-IV, for this vehicle. This fluid is not the same as Dexron III, perhaps the most commonly used automatic transmission fluid (ATF). It is quite possible that the symptoms of delayed engagement and slippage are the result of using incorrect fluid. If the wrong ATF was used, I'd suggest a complete flush and refill with the proper ATF T-IV fluid and, if the issue continues, adding 1/2 can of SeaFoam Trans Tune to the fluid—before deciding on a rebuild.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2003 Buick LeSabre with 75,100 miles on it. We recently took a road trip from Minneapolis to Maine. When traveling at 65 to 75 miles per hour using cruise control, if I needed to slow down or stop for road construction, the transmission downshifted smoothly, but when I increased the speed back to 65 to 75 mph the upshift would result in a "clunk" at each shift. After stopping for a break and starting to travel again, the upshifts would be normal. Also, around town there is no problem. Does heat play a role?

A: Very possibly. If the transmission is overheating at highway speed, shift quality will be affected. Make sure the radiator and grille opening are clear of debris that could cause higher transmission operating temperatures. My ALldata automotive database pulled up several GM bulletins addressing concerns with the transmission valve body. Have a scan tool check for any DTC fault codes that could related to the issue. If none are found, and the transmission has never been serviced, it might well be worth a full transmission flush and refill. This would also be the time to inspect the valve body if it is suspect.

■ ■ ■

Q: A friend just picked up a 1996 Dodge Ram Van 2500 with the 5.2-liter V8 and only 48,000 miles on the clock. He got it back to Minnesota and is wondering about improving traction in the snow. Are there any limited-slip rear-end options for this vehicle? If so, where would be the best and most cost-effective places for us to source one?

A: Adding or swapping to a limited-slip differential can be a costly upgrade, particularly for a 17-year-old truck. This van could have one of three rear axle setups—Chrysler 8 3/8-inch or 9 1/4-inch, or a Dana 60 9 3/4-inch differential. Considering that new Trac-Lok carriers for the Dana unit start at around \$500 plus installation, I'd start shopping the automotive salvage and recycling yards.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com.

2013 Nissan Sentra:
Engine 1.8-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Wheelbase 106.3 inches
Length 182.1 inches
Weight 2,851 pounds
Cargo space 15.1 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway) 30/39 mpg (estimated)
Fuel type Regular
Base price, base model \$15,990
Base price, test models \$17,970
As tested \$19,750-\$23,420

Life & Style

James Earl Jones to star in Driving Miss Daisy

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—They're starring in a play about a woman reluctant to age and the perils of passing time, but veteran actors James Earl Jones and Angela Lansbury say that life in their 80s continues to be exciting thanks to their determination to keep doing what they love.

Jones and Lansbury, in Australia to star in a touring production of Alfred Uhry's Pulitzer-Prize winning play "Driving Miss Daisy," say the thrill of performing has propelled them throughout their decades-long careers and gives them the energy necessary to keep up with their often grueling schedules.

"First of all, wake up. Wake up and try to get your bones moving," a grinning Jones, who turns 82 this month, said Monday ahead of the cast's first rehearsal. "And then be enthusiastic about what you do. I'm very enthusiastic about acting still. I love the process of creating a character."

For 87-year-old Lansbury, whose seven-decade career has spanned stage, film and television, performing live gives her a rush that can't be matched on the screen.

"You get on stage and you really can let it out," she said, throwing her arms wide. "You're not hampered by camera angles or lighting."

Lansbury, nominated for three Oscars

and beloved for her role as amateur detective Jessica Fletcher on the long-running TV series "Murder, She Wrote," said it was the stage that gave her a jolt of fresh inspiration later in life.

"Coming back to the theater about seven years ago turned the tide for me, it really did. Because it gave me a career after 70," she said. "I could still work in the theater and play great roles, but it wasn't so easy to continue as a motion picture actress. Which I was very glad of—I didn't like the way we were making movies ... the kind of roles I would like to play didn't seem to exist. But I love the theater and, as it turned out, it was the thing to do."

Both actors jumped at the chance to perform in "Driving Miss Daisy," which began as an off-Broadway play and inspired the Oscar-winning film starring Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman. The play follows the evolving friendship of Daisy and her chauffeur Hoke in the American South over 25 years.

"When I saw Morgan do it, I said 'I'd like to play that role,'" Jones said. "I thought I understood (Hoke) and I want to understand him more."

Jones was also attracted to the role because of Hoke's illiteracy. Jones, famous for his distinctive baritone voice, suffered from a debilitating stutter as a child that left him virtually mute until he was 14. An English teacher mentored him until he discovered his voice, which then led to his acting career.

Now, he finds particular fulfillment when playing characters who struggle with language.

"Hoke Colburn is such a character. He's illiterate, but he speaks English ... and uses it very effectively and very poetically," Jones said. "That's what I love about the role, trying to understand how he re-weaves language so he gets himself across."

Lansbury said it was the play's setting in the American South that helped attract her to the role of Daisy.

"I understand the southern mentality," she said. "I went to drama school with a number of young women who came from (the South) and I never forgot them and I never forgot the way they spoke. Their accents were so interesting to me."

The role is a big change from her 12-year run as Jessica Fletcher on "Murder, She Wrote," and the change is welcome. While Lansbury has a soft spot for the mystery writer, she admits she doesn't miss her much.

"I was happy to retire her. I'm constantly reminded of her by people who are still very fond of watching the show. ... I can't get away from it!" she said with a laugh. "I'm more famous for Jessica Fletcher than anything."

Actors James Earl Jones, left, and Angela Lansbury pose for photos after discussing their rolls in the play "Driving Miss Daisy" in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

AP



Sally Field brings down the house at Palm Springs festival

By JULIE MAKINEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PALM SPRINGS, Calif.—Veteran Helen Mirren showed how to express gratitude like a pro, saying "thank you" in at least half a dozen languages. Fresh-faced Tom Holland, the 16-year-old actor from "The Impossible," charmed with his youth. But it was Sally Field who brought down the house Saturday night at the Palm Springs International Film Festival gala, an event that in many ways is the first dress rehearsal of Hollywood's awards season.

Held a week before the Golden Globes and seven weeks before the Oscars, the gala gives celebrities a chance to practice strutting on the red carpet and speechifying onstage. Among the honorees this year were actresses Helen Hunt and Naomi Watts, actors Richard Gere and Bradley Cooper, and director Tom Hooper.

For years, the Palm Springs fete happened before Oscar nominations closed and thus was a final campaign opportunity for a nomination. This year, Academy Award nomination ballots were due a day before the gala.

Still, the evening offered opportunities for many prospective contenders to rub elbows with the scores of Motion Picture Academy members who live in the Palm Springs area. Assuming many of the Palm Springs honorees did land Oscar nominations, they were able to sow some goodwill with Acad-



AP

Sally Field appears on stage at the 24th Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 in Palm Springs, Calif.

emy Awards voters here Saturday.

Field, who has received accolades for her portrayal of first lady Mary Todd Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" this season and is seen as a strong contender for a supporting actress Oscar, accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award from Martin Sheen as the crowd of nearly 2,000 at the Palm Springs Convention Center gave her a standing ovation.

The two-time Oscar winner, who

grew up in Los Angeles in what she called a "working-class showbiz family," charmed the crowd—heavy with desert retirees—with tales of visiting the sunny getaway of Palm Springs as a child on vacation in the 1950s. "It was one long street, a dusty, wonderful street," she joked. "That was it."

She recalled landing her first professional acting job at age 17, apparently referring to her turn on the TV show "Gidget." Before her first

scene, the producer "looked down in my face and said very seriously, 'You know, Sally, you can't change your mind,' " she recollected. "I didn't know what he was talking about. Change my mind?"

The idea, Field said, was utterly foreign to her. "I didn't back into becoming an actor—I was born one," she said, going on to recount a host of her experiences—many hilarious—in nearly five decades of acting.

She told of "flying across the Coconut Grove into John Wayne's arms wearing a pink taffeta culotte outfit that my mother had made for me" to present Dustin Hoffman with the newcomer award at the Golden Globes ceremony in 1968. "How I survived that," she quipped, "I don't know."

Over the years, she said, "I did a scene in a suit of armor, and dressed as a bear. I've done love scenes with a pelican. Yes, it's true, I've done love scenes with a pelican. But I've also done love scenes with Paul Newman. ... I've been weighed down with 150 pounds of period clothes. I've been fully clothed, semi-clothed and totally naked, and never once has it occurred to me to change my mind."

Field, 66, wore a lacy black dress, but blue seemed to be the color of choice for the evening, with Watts, Hunt and emcee Mary Hart donning gowns in shades between navy and cobalt.

Hart, the longtime host of "Entertainment Tonight," was emceeing the event for the 10th time. She led the

audience in a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for Cooper, who turned 38 on Saturday.

The "Silver Linings Playbook" star took home a Desert Palm Achievement Award for acting (presented by his director, David O. Russell), as did Watts, star of the tsunami drama "The Impossible" (who received her award from co-star Tom Holland).

The film festival was founded by Sonny Bono 24 years ago when he was mayor of Palm Springs; his widow, Mary Bono Mack, took the stage halfway through the ceremony and in a poignant moment, noted that Saturday marked the 15th anniversary of Bono's death, in a skiing accident. "I miss Sonny every day," Mack said.

The cast of "Argo" received the Ensemble Performance Award, presented by Tony Mendez, a CIA agent portrayed by Ben Affleck in the film; Affleck was joined onstage by cast members Alan Arkin and Bryan Cranston.

Other honorees included "Life of Pi" composer Mychael Danna, who was presented the Frederick Lowe Award for Film Composing by director Ang Lee; Gere, who received the Chairman's Award (presented by Diane Lane); and "Les Misérables" director Hooper, who was given the Sonny Bono Visionary Award by his cast member Eddie Redmayne. Mirren received the International Star Award.

Organizers said the event raised \$1.8 million for the nonprofit Palm Springs International Film Society.

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Texas Chainsaw 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:20	7:20	10:55
Sunday	1:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		7:20	

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Leatherface and his cannibalistic clan are back and this time in 3D with this Nu Image/Lionsgate production. John Luessenhop (Takers) helms.

Texas Chainsaw 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:15
Sunday	4:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Django Unchained

Friday and Saturday	12:45	4:10	7:35	10:00
Sunday	12:45	4:10	7:35	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:35	

Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz
Genre: Western • Rated R

Synopsis

Quentin Tarantino heads to western territory with Django Unchained, one part homage to Italian spaghetti westerns and the other, a spin on race relations in the South.

Parental Guidance

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Jack Reacher

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13

This Is 40

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	10:15
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Jason Segel, Megan Fox
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Monsters Inc. 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday and Saturday	12:45	7:45
Sunday	12:45	7:45
Mon through Thurs		7:45

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:20	10:10
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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'Chainsaw 3-D' carves out No. 1 debut with \$23M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took Leatherface and his chainsaw to chase tiny hobbit Bilbo Baggins out of the top spot at the box office.

Lionsgate's horror sequel "Texas Chainsaw 3-D" debuted at No. 1 with \$23 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The movie picks up where 1974's "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" left off, with masked killer Leatherface on the loose again.

Quentin Tarantino's revenge saga "Django Unchained" held on at No. 2 for a second-straight weekend with \$20.1 million. The Weinstein Co. release raised its domestic total to \$106.4 million.

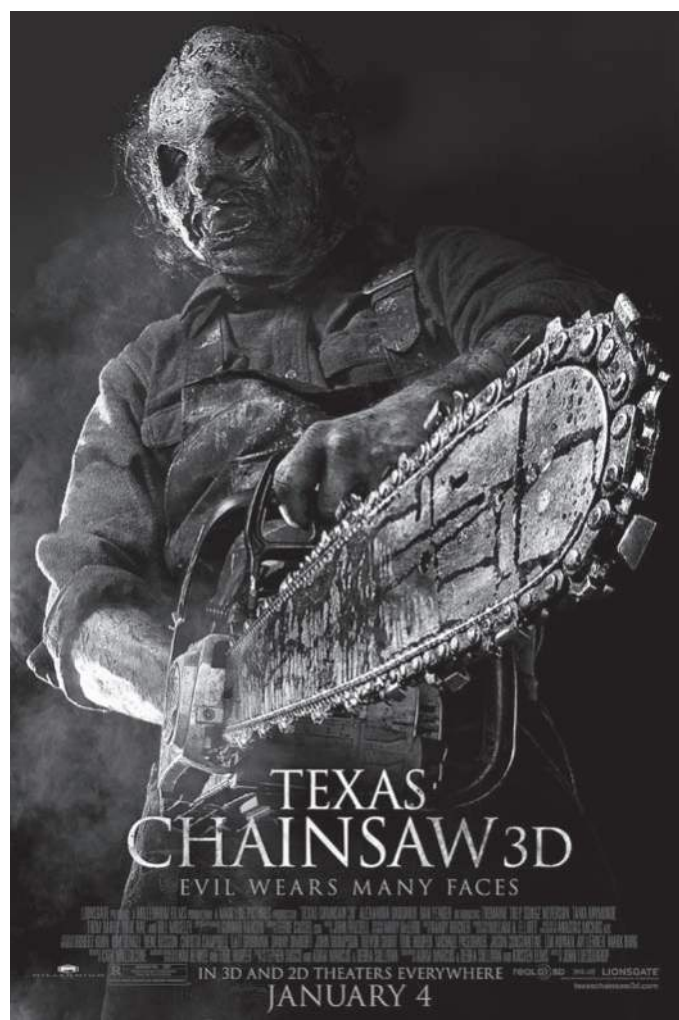
After three weekends at No. 1, part one of Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" trilogy slipped to third with \$17.5 million. That lifts the domestic haul to \$263.8 million for "The Hobbit." The Warner Bros. blockbuster added \$57.1 million overseas to bring its international earnings to \$561 million and its worldwide total to about \$825 million.

Also passing the \$100 million mark over the weekend was Universal's musical "Les Misérables," which finished at No. 4 with \$16.1 million, pushing its domestic total to \$103.6 million.

Like other horror franchises, "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" has had several other remakes or sequels, but the idea always seems ripe for a new wave of fright-flick fans. Nearly two-thirds of the audience was under 25, too young—or not even born—when some earlier "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" movies came out.

"It's one of those that survives each generation. It's something that continues to come back and entertain its audience," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Lionsgate.

"Texas Chainsaw" drew a hefty 84 percent of its business



AP

This undated publicity film image from Lionsgate shows theatrical key art for a poster from the movie, "Texas Chainsaw 3-D."

from 3-D screenings. Many movies now draw 50 percent or less of their revenue from 3-D screenings, but horror fans tend to prefer paying extra to see blood and guts fly with an added dimension.

In narrower release, Matt Damon's natural-gas fracking drama "Promised Land" had a slow start in its nationwide debut, coming in at No. 10 with \$4.3 million after opening in limited release a week earlier.

Released by Focus Features, "Promised Land" stars Damon as a salesman pitching rural residents on fracking technology

to drill for natural gas. The film widened to 1,676 theaters, averaging a slim \$2,573 a cinema, compared with \$8,666 in 2,654 theaters for "Texas Chainsaw."

Hollywood began the year where it left in 2012, when business surged during the holidays to carry the industry to a record \$10.8 billion at the domestic box office.

Overall business this weekend came in at \$149 million, up 7 percent from the same period last year, when "The Devil Inside" led with \$33.7 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. But with strong business

1. "Texas Chainsaw 3-D," \$23 million.
2. "Django Unchained," \$20.1 million.
3. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," \$17.5 million (\$57.1 million international).
4. "Les Misérables," \$16.1 million (\$14.5 million international).
5. "Parental Guidance," \$10.1 million.
6. "Jack Reacher," \$9.3 million (\$22.3 million international).
7. "This Is 40," \$8.6 million.
8. "Lincoln," \$5.3 million.
9. "The Gilt Trip," \$4.5 million.
10. "Promised Land," \$4.3 million.

on New Year's Day last week, Hollywood already has raked in \$254.2 million, 33 percent ahead of last year.

Box-office results ebb and flow quickly, so that lead could vanish almost overnight. But with a steady lineup of potential hits right through December, studios have a chance at another revenue record this year.

"The month that we had at the end of last year that led us to a record year continued right through New Year's and on now to the first official weekend of 2013," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "We're looking for an even stronger year this year. That's in the realm of possibility. But we have 51 weekends to go."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

French actor Depardieu gets Russian passport

MOSCOW (AP)—The day after receiving his new Russian passport from President Vladimir Putin, French actor Gerard Depardieu flew Sunday to the provincial town of Saransk, where he was greeted as a local hero and offered an apartment for free.

Depardieu had sought Russian citizenship as part of his battle against a proposed super tax on millionaires in France.

Putin granted his request last week and then welcomed the actor late Saturday to his residence in Sochi, the host city of the 2014 Winter Olympics. Russian television showed the two men embracing and then chatting over supper, discussing a soon-to-be-released film in which Depardieu plays Russian monk Grigory Rasputin.

Depardieu flew Sunday to Saransk, a town about 500 kilometers (300 miles) east of Moscow, where he was met at a snow-covered airport by the governor and a group of women in traditional costume singing folk songs. He flashed his new pass-



AP

French actor Gerard Depardieu, left, greets Russian President Vladimir Putin after his arrival late Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, at the president's residence in Sochi, the host city of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

port to the crowd before setting out on a tour of the town.

The governor invited Depardieu to settle in Saransk and offered him an apartment of his choice, according to re-

ports on state television.

Depardieu has not said where he would take up residence in Russia, only that he did not want to live in Moscow because it is too big and he prefers a village.

The Frenchman has spent a fair bit of time in Russia in recent years, including for the filming of the French-Russian film "Rasputin," and he expresses an admiration for Putin. But it is Russia's flat 13 percent income tax that appears to be the biggest draw at the moment as he flees high taxes in France.

France's new Socialist government tried to raise the tax on income above €1 million (\$1.3 million) to 75 percent from the current 41 percent. That plan was struck down by the highest court, but Budget Minister Jerome Cahuzac said Sunday that the government is reworking the law so the superrich will still be asked to pay an elevated rate. He said the government is also considering putting the new tax in place for longer than the two years initially imagined.

"I find it a bit pathetic that for tax reasons this man—whom by the way I admire infinitely as an actor—has decided to exile himself," Cahuzac said.

Rare color photos of The Beatles to go up for sale

LONDON (AP)—Unpublished early color photographs of The Beatles' first U.S. tour will be sold at a U.K. auction.

The photos were taken during the rock band's 1964 visit to the U.S., when color film was expensive and most images of the group were in black and white.

The collection of 65 slides contains many stage shots, including George Harrison with his legendary red Rickenbacker guitar and close-up portraits from a Las Vegas Sahara Hotel press conference and Las Vegas



Convention Centre gig.

The images were taken by Dr. Robert Beck, who died in 2002 and left them in an archive of photographs and slides in his Hollywood home.

Omega Auctions said Sunday the images will be sold March 22—exactly 50 years after The Beatles released their first album.

In this photo taken Dec. 29, 2012, auctioneer Paul Fairweather holds four colour transparencies of The Beatles taken during their first tour of the USA in 1964.

AP

Michael J. Fox to play newscaster in new NBC show

PASADENA, California (AP)—On his upcoming NBC comedy, Michael J. Fox will play a newscaster who had quit his job due to Parkinson's Disease but returns to work in the show's first episode because a new medical regimen has helped him control many of the disease's symptoms.

It mirrors the life of the former "Family Ties" and "Spin City" star, who said last year that drugs have helped minimize the physical tics of Parkinson's and has enabled him to take on more acting jobs.

The TV comedy, which doesn't have a title yet, is a key piece of NBC's strategy to build upon a revival that has brought the network back from many years in the ratings wilderness. Show like "The Voice" and "Revolution" have made NBC the only one of the four biggest networks to gain in viewership over last season.

Fox's series doesn't have a title yet. Though it's not definite, NBC is penciling the comedy in for September on its low-rated Thursday schedule. The long-running Thursday comedy "30 Rock" ends its run on Jan. 31, and "The Office" will exit after a special one-hour episode this spring.

In the family comedy, Fox's character will be the father of two teen-age children and a younger boy, Jennifer Salke, the network's entertainment president, said on Sunday. It will be set in New York City, and filmed there, too, she said.

The real-life disease has left Fox an object of pity-fueled ad-

miration, yet Fox "approaches his life and his work with a lot of reverence," Salke said.

"It's a family show that has him dealing with work and office relationships as well as dealing with kind of his public persona, which is very real," she said. "You see, he gets a standing ovation everywhere he shows up, and the idea that he's sort of been put up on this pedestal by the country



Fox

and the world, really. He's just a regular guy, who gets frustrated, who gets mad at having to sit at home."

Fox is meeting this week with actresses who may be cast as his wife on the show.

Fox has appeared in limited roles over the past few years, most notably as a lawyer in CBS' "The Good Wife." But it's his track record as the star of two previous comedy series that has

HBO will continue screening Universal movies

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO said Sunday that it is renewing its deal with Universal Pictures to be the exclusive pay-TV provider of the studio's movies for another decade, the companies said. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

HBO, part of Time Warner Inc., and Universal Pictures, part of Comcast Corp., have had an agreement in place since 2003.

The deal includes movies produced by Universal and its specialty films unit, Focus Features.

Current films from the studio include "This is 40" and "Les Misérables." It is also responsible for classics like "E.T.," "Jaws" and "Scarface."

"With our upcoming slate of films, HBO will continue to offer outstanding film content to their already vast library of movies, specials and award-winning original programming," Rick Finkelstein, vice chairman and COO of Universal Pictures, said

in a statement.

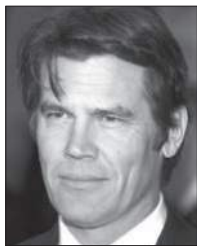
The deal is key for HBO, which faces a threat from streaming movie providers like Netflix Inc. Since it is an exclusive agreement, Universal movies won't be able to be streamed on Netflix or other competitors until 2022 at the earliest.

Josh Brolin arrested in Calif on New Year's Day

SANTA MONICA, California (AP)—Actor Josh Brolin spent some of New Year's Day and the following morning in a Southern California jail cell after getting arrested for misdemeanor public intoxication.

Santa Monica Police Lt. Darrell Lowe says the actor was not given a citation for the Tuesday arrest, which means he likely won't have to appear in court.

Lowe says Brolin was ar-



Brolin

rested just before midnight January 1, when officers found him heavily intoxicated on a Santa Monica sidewalk. He was booked into jail and released about six hours later after he had sobered up.

A call to a publicist for Brolin was not immediately re-

turned Sunday. Brolin is starring in the crime film "Gangster Squad," which opens this week.

Visit with man's old friends won't seem like old times

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Arthur," and I are planning a trip. One stop will be to see some friends of his, "Mac" and "Annie," from years back. I am dreading the visit.

Last year, Arthur had a heart attack. I called some of our closest friends to let them know he was in the hospital. One couple knew Mac and Annie, and told them about his illness.

Mac and Annie then called me and yelled at me for "allowing" my husband to get ill. I hung up, but they called back when I was at the hospital and left another hate-filled message on our answering machine. Not wanting Arthur to get upset, I erased it and never told him.

Abby, I don't want to see these people. I know I'll be suppressing the urge to slap them both, but I intend to try to be gracious. Should I tell my husband about my last encounter with them, or trust that they have enough sense not to bring up the matter?

DREADING THE VISIT IN TEXAS

DEAR DREADING: What exactly is it that you should have done to prevent your husband from having the heart attack—thrown your body over his fork so he couldn't eat the "wrong" foods, nagged him into quitting smoking, or "forced" him to exercise and adopt a different lifestyle? You're his wife, not his mother.

You should **ABSOLUTELY** tell your husband about those outrageous phone calls. Do not assume that folks with such an absence of common sense that they would attack you during a family crisis wouldn't do something equally inappropriate during the visit.

Frankly, I don't blame you for wanting to avoid them. Your husband should clear the air before either of you see them—if you decide to see them at all.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are on an extremely tight budget since I lost my job and he was forced to retire early because of health issues. We have a nice home (paid for) and older vehicles, and we have no complaints about our lifestyle other than being more penny-conscious to cover our basic expenses.

We receive numerous wedding invitations from our grown children's friends, whom we have known and loved since they were all in high school together. Our problem is what to do about a gift for them when we don't have the money for one. We love to attend the weddings and receptions, but I feel bad about not taking a gift.

What's the right thing to do? Do we go and not take anything, offer an explanation or decline the invitation? I always send a card and I don't want anyone to think we are cheap. My son was married last year, and people were very generous with their gifts, which I really appreciated.

We also received six graduation announcements last spring—same issue. I'd really appreciate some advice.

TIGHTENING OUR BELTS IN MISSOURI

DEAR TIGHTENING: When you receive a wedding invitation from one of your children's former high school friends, pick up the phone and explain your current circumstances and the fact that they, regrettably, prevent you from attending. That will leave the door open for them to invite you to come anyway. If the invitation is a sincere wish to share their special day with you and not a gift grab, they'll tell you your presence is all the "gift" they need. However, if they don't, send a card extending your good wishes.

As for the graduation announcements, they should be acknowledged with a nice card and a sweet note of congratulations. You are under no obligation to send a gift.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Smash' musical getting cast album

PASADENA, California (AP)—The Broadway show within a show on NBC's "Smash" is getting its own cast album. NBC and Columbia Records said Sunday that a 22-song cast album for "Bombshell," the mythical Broadway play at the center of the television show "Smash," will be released on Feb. 12. Katherine McPhee, Megan Hilty and other "Smash" cast members perform the songs on the disc. NBC premieres the drama's second season a week before the album comes out. Producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said they'd often talked

about launching "Bombshell" as an actual Broadway show but haven't taken any steps to make that a reality. Zadan said he believed the cast recording for "Bombshell" could stand up with the music on any current Broadway show. The soundtrack has music from both seasons.

Actor Thomas Gibson arrested, suspected of DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police in Los Angeles have arrested "Dharma and Greg" actor Thomas Gibson on suspicion of driving under the influence. Officer Cleon Joseph says the 50-year-old Gibson was arrested early

Sunday after he drove through a barricade set up to keep cars off the course of a night run through downtown. He was booked and released on \$15,000 bail. Gibson is known for his roles in the television shows "Criminal Minds." He also played one of the titular characters on the sitcom "Dharma and Greg." A call to his representative was not immediately returned.

Musical of film 'Diner' postponed until fall

NEW YORK (AP)—The musical based on the film "Diner" has postponed its Broadway opening. Producers said late Sunday night that the Kathleen Marshall-

directed show with songs by Sheryl Crow will make its debut on Broadway in the fall, instead of the spring. Producer Scott Zeiger in a statement says a four-week workshop of the show in November got good feedback and that early fall dates work better for all involved. Set in Baltimore on Christmas 1959, the story explores the lives of a circle of friends in their early 20s, all set to vintage rock 'n' roll and doo-wop. Barry Levinson, who wrote and directed the 1982 film, adapted it into the new musical. The film starred Steve Guttenberg, Mickey Rourke, Kevin Bacon, Paul Reiser, Tim Daly, Daniel Stern and Ellen Barkin.

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RG3 hurt, Seattle tops Redskins in playoffs



LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Russell Wilson raced ahead to throw the final block on Marshawn Lynch's fourth-quarter, go-ahead touchdown run, doing just enough to get in the way of the Washington Redskins safety near the goal line.

Less than a minute later, Robert Griffin III's knee buckled as he tried to field a bad shotgun snap, the pain so bad that he didn't even try to recover the ball.

The last rookie quarterback standing in the NFL playoffs is Wilson—the third-round pick who teamed with Lynch on Sunday to lead the Seattle Seahawks to a 24-14 victory over Griffin and the Redskins.

"Marshawn always tells me, 'Russ, I got your back, no matter what,'" Wilson said. "So I just try to help him out every once in a while."

And the latest debate over the wisdom of keeping an injured franchise player on the field—when he's obviously nowhere near his best—starts with coach Mike Shanahan, who let Griffin keep going until the QB could absolutely go no more.

"I think I did put myself at more risk," Griffin said. "But every time you get on the field, you're putting yourself on the line."

Lynch ran for 132 yards, and Wilson completed 15 of 26 passes for 187 yards and ran eight times for 67 yards as Seahawks overcame a 14-0 first-quarter hole—their biggest deficit of the season—and will visit the top-seeded Atlanta Falcons next Sunday.

Meanwhile, Griffin was headed for an MRI exam to determine the extent of the damage on his re-injured right knee. He was already playing with a big black brace, having sprained the lateral collateral ligament about a month ago against the Baltimore Ravens. He hadn't looked his usual self in the two games he had played since, and he was obviously hobbled after falling awkwardly while throwing an incomplete pass in the first quarter Sunday.

In the fourth quarter, Griffin labored on a 9-yard run that made him look 32 years old instead of 22.

"He said, 'Hey, trust me. I want to be in there, and I deserve to be in there,'" Shanahan said. "I couldn't disagree with him."

Shanahan said he'll probably second-guess himself over his decision. He has the entire offseason to do so. And, whatever the injury, Griffin at least has time to recover.

Wilson, on the other hand, will carry on. The day began with three rookie quarterbacks in the playoffs, but No. 1 overall pick Andrew Luck was eliminated when Indianapolis lost to Baltimore.

Seattle is riding a six-game winning streak, having left behind any doubts that the team can hold its own outside the Pacific Northwest. The Seahawks were 3-5 on the road in the regular season and had lost eight straight road playoff games, the last win coming in 1983 against the Miami Dolphins.

"It was only two touchdowns, but it's still a big comeback and, in this setting and the crowd, it's a marvelous statement about the guys' resolve and what is going on," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "It's not about how you start but how you finish."

Seattle's defense shut down the Redskins after a rough start. Washington had 129 yards in the first quarter and 74



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III twists his knees as he reaches for the loose ball after a low snap during the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Landover, Md., Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

Sources: Chip Kelly staying at Oregon

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

Two people with knowledge of the decision confirmed Sunday night that Kelly is passing up a chance to coach in the NFL to remain with the Ducks. One person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Oregon and Kelly haven't formally announced the decision, while the other person wasn't authorized to reveal Kelly's plans. The decision was first reported by ESPN.

Kelly had lengthy interviews this weekend with the Cleveland Browns and Philadelphia Eagles, and also talked to the Buffalo Bills. Last year, he had talks with Tampa Bay.

The 49-year-old coach earned a base salary of \$2.8 million this past season last at Oregon and has five years left on his contract. The No. 5 Ducks, known for the innovative offense that Kelly devised, beat Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl on Thursday night to finish the season 12-1.

Kelly is 46-7 in four years at Oregon and the Ducks have been to four straight BCS bowl games - including a bid for the national championship against Auburn two seasons ago - and won three Pac-12 championships. He originally came to the Ducks in 2007 as offensive coordinator under Mike Bellotti. Before that, he was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire.

Earlier Sunday, a person familiar

with Cleveland's coaching search said the team passed on Kelly after he was indecisive about making the leap to the NFL. The Browns nearly had a deal with Kelly two days ago, but they've moved on to other candidates, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the search.

The buyout for Kelly's contract with Oregon is \$3.5 million.

Kelly's decision to stay at Oregon came as a surprise after months of speculation that this season was his last with the Ducks. It appeared that offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich was the leading candidate to replace him.

Ducks fans at the Fiesta Bowl made their feelings clear by chanting "We want Chip!" during the victory celebration. Nike co-founder and Oregon mega-booster Phil Knight proclaimed to a reporter following the game: "I was one of 'em."

Kelly himself said about the NFL interest: "I'll listen and we'll see."

But at the same time, he acknowledged a love for Oregon.

"It's a special place with special people. They accepted me six years ago when I was at New Hampshire. Not many people knew about me," Kelly said. "Gave me an opportunity to come here. It really means a lot."

In staying with Oregon, Kelly will still have to deal with fallout from an NCAA investigation into the school's

use of recruiting services.

The inquiry is the result of reports that surfaced in 2011 concerning payments Oregon made to two such services, including a \$25,000 check sent to Willie Lyles and Houston-based Complete Scouting Services in 2010. Lyles had a relationship with a player who committed to Oregon.

Last month, Yahoo Sports reported that Oregon is headed toward a hearing with the NCAA committee on infractions because the two sides couldn't come to an agreement on appropriate sanctions. Yahoo cited two unidentified sources.

Earlier this year, Oregon requested a summary disposition in the case. The school presented a report to the infractions committee outlining violations the school believed occurred and appropriate sanctions. But that request was apparently turned down.

The NCAA does not comment on ongoing investigations.

"We've cooperated fully with them. If they want to talk to us again, we'll continue to cooperate fully," Kelly said following the Fiesta Bowl. "I feel confident in the situation."

Kelly explained that he stayed at Oregon following the interest from Tampa Bay because he had "unfinished business" with the Ducks. The team was ranked No. 1 and appeared headed for another shot at the national championship until a 17-14 loss to Stanford on Nov. 17.

punt—rather than a long field goal attempt by an injured kicker.

But the Seahawks kept coming. Wilson led the way for two big change-of-direction runs by Lynch in the game, the second one a 27-yard scoring run with 7:08 remaining.

A 2-point conversion gave the Seahawks a 21-14 lead, and then came the moment that essentially put the outcome to rest.

On the second play of the Redskins' next possession, Griffin's knee bent the wrong way on a second-and-22 at the

Washington 12. He lay on the ground as the Seahawks pounced on the ball.

Griffin walked off the field under his own power, but he was done for the night. By the end of the game, he was sitting alone on the white sideline bench, his brace discarded on a bench next to him.

With good field position, the Seahawks kicked a short field goal to give them the insurance they needed. Fellow rookie Kirk Cousins, subbing for Griffin, was unable to rally the Redskins in the final minutes.

"Despite the fact that we have a 'nobody' team," Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman said, "a team not full of first-rounders and things like that, we have a lot of guys that play at a high level."

Ravens 24, Colts 9

In Baltimore, Anquan Boldin set a franchise record with 145 yards on five receptions, including the clinching touchdown, as Baltimore beat Indianapolis 24-9 in Sunday's AFC wild-card game.

The previously struggling Ravens defense was staunch, inspired no doubt by star linebacker Ray Lewis appearing in his final home game before retiring. The win delays his retirement for at least another week as Baltimore (11-6) heads to Denver next Saturday.

The Broncos beat the Ravens 34-17 three weeks ago.

Lewis even lined up at fullback for the final kneel-down in his last home game of a 17-year career, then went into a short version of his trademark dance before being mobbed by teammates.

Sunday's victory also enhanced the Ravens' success rate in opening playoff games. Flacco now has won at least one postseason game in all five of his pro seasons, the only quarterback to do it in the Super Bowl era.

His main target Sunday was Boldin, who had receptions of 50 and 46 yards, plus his 18-yard TD on a floater from Flacco in the corner of the end zone with 9:14 to go.

Baltimore overcame the first two lost fumbles of the season by Ray Rice, too, as John Harbaugh became the first head coach with wins in his first five playoff campaigns.

Backup halfback Bernard Pierce rescued Rice with a 43-yard burst that led to Boldin's touchdown, and ran for 103 yards.

Flacco also connected with Dennis Pitta for a 20-yard TD and rookie Justin Tucker made a 23-yard field goal.

The loss ended the Colts' turnaround season in which they went from 2-14 to the playoffs in coach Chuck Pagano's first year in Indianapolis (11-6). Pagano missed 12 weeks while undergoing treatment for leukemia and returned last week.

Offensive coordinator Bruce Arians, who went 9-3 as interim coach, was absent Sunday after being hospitalized with an undisclosed illness. Quarterback coach Clyde Christensen called the plays, but Baltimore's suddenly revitalized defense—inspired by Lewis' pending retirement, no doubt—never let standout rookie QB Andrew Luck get comfortable.

Indy's only points came on three field goals by Adam Vinatieri, from 47, 52 and 26 yards.

Reggie Wayne had 108 yards on eight receptions and moved into second in career playoff catches with 91—only 60 behind leader Jerry Rice.

Walker leads Bobcats past Pistons in OT

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—It's not quite a winning streak, but after losing 18 straight, coming out on top in two out of three games is close enough.

Kemba Walker had 20 points and seven assists, Ben Gordon scored 18 points and the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Detroit Pistons 108-101 in overtime Sunday night for just their second win in 21 games.

After snapping the long losing skid with a 91-81 victory at Chicago on Monday, Charlotte lost 106-104 to Cleveland at home on Friday night.

Ramon Sessions added 15 points, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 11, and Bismack Biyombo had 10 points and 17 rebounds for the Bobcats.

"It definitely helped push us away from that losing streak and get on with life," Charlotte coach Mike Dunlop said about the team's latest win.

Tayshaun Prince scored 21 points to lead Detroit, which snapped a four-game winning streak. Greg Monroe had 18 points, 14 rebounds and six assists and Rodney Stuckey also scored 18 points.

"They're a team that when you score on them, they push it right back down your throat. They come at you 100 times faster than you went at them," Pistons' rookie center Andre Drummond said. "That's one of the teams that when you score, you miss a shot, you gotta get back quick or else they're going to score on you."

Walker's driving layup with 7.8 seconds left in regulation tied the score at 96-all, sending the game to overtime.

"I'm just trying to make the best play possible. Whether it's a pass or making a basket," Walker said. "Tonight it was the basket that put us into overtime."

Then, he and Tyrus Thomas had four points each for Charlotte in the extra period.

"He's got a big heart and he knows how to close a game," Dunlop said about Walker. "He's a special player."

Thomas, who had 13 points, was playing in only his second game after missing six weeks with a right calf strain.

Prince's jump hook with 2:02 left had given the Pistons a 96-94 lead.

Drummond scored six straight

points for the Pistons and blocked shot in less than a four-minute span in the fourth quarter, as Detroit led 90-87 with 5:39 left.

However, Drummond then fouled Walker, who hit two free throws with 5:15 remaining to bring the Bobcats within one.

"A loss is a loss, no matter who it's to. Whether it's to Derrick Rose, Kemba Walker," Pistons point guard Brandon Knight said. "Those are just guys on certain teams. It's a team game. It's the Pistons lost to the Bobcats."

The Pistons led 82-79 going into the fourth quarter.

Detroit held a 60-59 lead at the half after Charlotte rallied from a 13-point deficit with less than five minutes left in the second quarter.

Four consecutive 3-point shots, the first three by Charlie Villanueva and the fourth by Stuckey, helped give the Pistons a 58-45 lead with 4:48 remaining in the first half.

"I think they tried to come out and hit us in the mouth in the first half," Gordon said.

But the Bobcats scored the next 10 points—two free throws by Biyombo (4:32), an alley-oop dunk by Jeff Taylor (4:14), two more free throws by Biyombo (3:45), Thomas' two free throws (3:09) and Biyombo's lay-in (2:36) cut Detroit's lead to 58-55.

The Pistons' Knight was credited with a bucket on a goaltending call to make it 60-55 with 1:40 left.

But Walker ended the half with two driving lay-ups with 52.4 and 25.7 seconds left.

Nuggets 112, Lakers 105

In Los Angeles, Ty Lawson had 21 points and 10 assists, Danilo Gallinari scored 20 points and hit a big 3-pointer with 13.8 seconds left, and Denver won for the fifth time in seven games.

JaVale McGee scored 17 points for the Nuggets, who showed no signs of weariness after a home win over Utah one night earlier. Despite two last-minute 3-pointers by Kobe Bryant, Denver maintained a lead throughout the fourth quarter of its second win in 12 days over the Lakers.

Bryant scored 29 points and Dwight Howard had 14 points and a career high-tying 26 rebounds for the Lakers, who



Charlotte Bobcats guard Kemba Walker (15) goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons forward Kyle Singler in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

have lost three straight and four of five.

Heat 99, Wizards 71

In Miami, LeBron James scored 24 points, Miami had an edge in rebounding and closed with a 21-0 run over the

final 7:07 to beat Washington.

The Heat, beaten on the boards by a total of 38 rebounds over the previous three games, this time enjoyed a 50-39 advantage. Udonis Haslem led them with 12 rebounds.

James extended his streaks of scoring at least 20 points to 32 consecutive games this season, and 53 in a row including last year's playoff run.

The Wizards, last in the NBA in points and shooting, hit 36 percent. They lost their fifth game in a row and fell to 0-13 on the road against Eastern Conference teams.

Grizzlies 92, Suns 81

In Phoenix, Zach Randolph scored 21 points and Rudy Gay added 20 to lead Memphis.

Tony Allen scored 11 and Marc Gasol had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who have won three of their last five games.

P.J. Tucker scored a career-high 17 points and Marcin Gortat added 12 points and rebounds for the Suns. Guards Goran Dragic and Sebastian Telfair combined for just 12 points and seven assists.

Phoenix has lost eight of nine and 15 of 20 dating to November 28.

Despite shooting in the mid-30 percent range for the bulk of the game, Phoenix trailed 71-65 when Markieff Morris converted a three-point play 31 seconds into the fourth quarter.

But Gasol scored four points, including a fallaway 17-footer, and Gay added a 21-foot jumper to key a 10-3 run that put the Grizzlies ahead 81-68.

Thunder 104, Raptors 92

In Toronto, Russell Westbrook scored 23 points, Kevin Durant had 22 and Oklahoma City won for the 17th time in its last 20 games.

Serge Ibaka had 19 points and eight rebounds and Kevin Martin scored 16 as the Thunder enjoyed a winning start to a stretch that sees them play 11 of 13 on the road. Oklahoma City came in having played an NBA-low 12 road games this season and improved to 9-4 as visitors.

Nick Collison had 10 points and eight rebounds to help the Thunder win for the fifth time in eight games since their season-high 12-game winning streak.

Alan Anderson scored 17 of his career-high 27 points in the second quarter and Amir Johnson had 19 for the Raptors, who lost their second straight after winning eight of nine.

NHL, players settle labor dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—They walked into a Manhattan hotel, knowing they were running out of time to save their season.

After 16 hours of tense talks, the NHL and its players finally achieved their elusive deal early Sunday morning, finding a way to restart a sport desperate to regain momentum and boost its prominence.

Ending a bitter dispute that wiped out a large part of the hockey season for the third time in less than two decades, the league and its union agreed to the framework of a 10-year labor contract that will allow a delayed schedule to start later this month.

On the 113th day of a management lockout and five days before the league's deadline for a deal, the bleary-eyed sides held a 6 a.m. news conference to announce there will be a season, after all.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Donald Fehr both appeared drained, wearing sweaters and not neckties, when they stood side by side at the hotel and announced labor peace.

"We have reached an agreement on the framework of a new collective bargaining agreement, the details of which need to be put to paper," Bettman said. "We've got to dot a lot of Is, cross a lot of Ts. There's still a lot of work to be done, but the basic framework of the deal has been agreed upon."

Lawyers will spend the next few days drafting a memorandum of agreement.

The stoppage led to the cancellation of at least 480 games—the exact length of the curtailed schedule hasn't been determined—bringing the total of lost regular-season games to a mini-

mum 2,178 during three lockouts under Bettman.

The agreement, which replaces the deal that expired Sept. 15, must be ratified by the 30 team owners and approximately 740 players.

"Hopefully, within just a very few days, the fans can get back to watching people who are skating, and not the two of us," Fehr said.

Fehr became executive director of the NHL Players Association in December 2010 after leading baseball players through two strikes and a lockout.

Players conceded early on in talks, which began in June, that they would accept a smaller percentage of revenue, and the negotiations were about how much lower.

"It was a battle," said Winnipeg Jets defenseman Ron Hainsey, a key member of the union's bargaining team. "Players obviously would rather not

have been here, but our focus now is to give the fans whatever it is—48 games, 50 games—the most exciting season we can."

With much of the money from its \$2 billion, 10-year contract with NBC back loaded toward the Stanley Cup playoffs in the spring—and now perhaps early summer—the league preferred to time the dispute for the start of the season in the fall. Management made its decision knowing regular-season attendance rose from 16,534 in 2003-04 to 16,954 in 2005-06 and only seven teams experienced substantial drops.

Flyers chairman Ed Snider told The Associated Press he was glad a partial schedule had been salvaged.

"I'm thrilled for our fans, I'm thrilled for all of our people that work around our sport that have been hurt by this," he said. "I'm thrilled for the players, for the owners. I'm just sorry it had to take this long. The great thing is, we don't have to look at it for hopefully 10 years, or at worst eight, and that's good stuff."

Still, the lockout could wipe out perhaps \$1 billion in revenue this season, given about 40 percent of the regular-season schedule won't be played. And while the stoppage was major news in Canada, it was an afterthought for many American sports fans.


"They could have gotten here a lot sooner," said Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based sports business consulting firm SportsCorp Ltd. "They didn't hear a hue and cry from the fans, especially in the United States, when hockey wasn't played. That's very distressing. That indicates there's a level of apathy that is troubling. In contrast, in the NFL when there was a threat of canceling a preseason weekend, the nation was up in arms."

At downtown Detroit's Rub BBQ Pub, manager Chris Eid said he was "ecstatic" when he heard the news. He said the settlement was a big topic of conversation among his afternoon customers.

"Everyone misses hockey," Eid said.

San Antonio, Hibiscus triumph in Blue Haus caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 San Antonio and Hibiscus each earned the nod over separate opponents in last Friday's 3rd Blue Haus Invitational basketball tournament matchups held at Garapan Basketball Court.

San Antonio torched Maplas Ka'Money, 110-65, in the first pairing, after which Hibiscus outlasted Yuman Construction, 89-84.

San Antonio connected with five 3-pointers in the first period to capture an early 28-23 lead, but Maplas Ka'Money hung around to within a pair of baskets at halftime, 44-48.

The latter's Trevor Norita struck twice from behind the arc for 14 points in the first period, but disappeared shortly after and added just two baskets in the remainder of the game.

His teammate Dennie Cortez filled the void through intermission with a much-needed 8 points in the second quarter that helped keep the group in contention, but all that would soon change as

San Antonio's Bryl Alegre and Jaymark De Guzman chipped in 6 points apiece to lead their team's second quarter stand.

As if it was toying with its opponents, San Antonio caught fire after the break and sprung out to a daunting 81-57 lead heading into the final period.

Maplas Ka'Money, on the other hand, went the other way and only mustered 13 markers in the third canto.

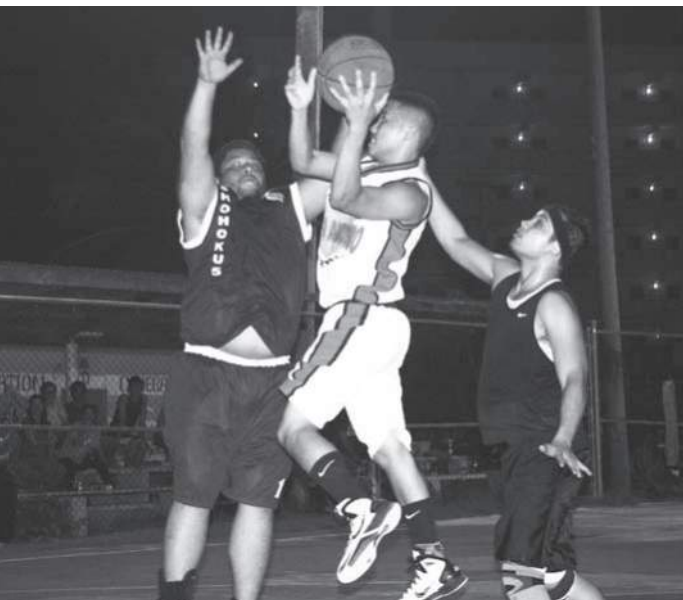
San Antonio's Melvin Cadiang almost single-handedly matched their effort with his 11 points that was complemented by 8 apiece by De Guzman and Jack Aranda.

Needless to say, the fourth quarter was uneventful as San Antonio ran away with it in the end.

Cadiang led four San Antonio cagers in double figures with 22 points, while Maplas Ka'Money's Cortez coped with 21 under duress.

In the nightcap, Yuman Construction held a one-basket advantage, 22-20, after the opening 10 minutes of the second matchup and the teams ended up knotted at 45-all at halftime.

Yuman center Leo Cristo-



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

San Antonio's Melvin Cadiang makes a strong move to the basket against two Maplas Ka'Money players during their Blue Haus caging game last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

bal bulldozed his way for 7 points in the first quarter and welcomed a trio of long-range strikes by his boys.

After contributing a dual effort of 13 points in the first period, Hibiscus' Preston Basa splashed in a trio of three-balls in the second quarter that went

with 8 more from his wingman Jun Hernandez.

Yuman's Chris Lansang did his best to hold things together for his team and hustled out 12 needed points to keep pace with their rivals.

Hibiscus' Daniel Isip and Nelson Manangan then led their

teammates in the third quarter with 6 points apiece that helped them move in front, 69-61.

Sonny Yumul tried to mount a comeback for Yuman, but Hibiscus center Art Trajano nailed in the coffin with a timely 10-point burst in the fourth period.

Yuman's Lansang topped the field with 23 points in the loss, while Hernandez paced Hibiscus with 20.

First Game

San Antonio 110 – Cadiang 22, De Guzman 19, Aranda 18, Salem 17, Alegre 16, Palacios 6, Villanueva 4, Saturno 4, Park 2.

Maplas Ka'Money 65 – Cortez 21, Norita 18, Inos 12, Peters 8, Flores 2, Usi 2, Anicieta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-23, 48-44, 81-57, 110-65.

Second Game

Hibiscus 89 – Hernandez 20, Trajano 17, Basa 16, Isip 10, Manangan 8, Tenepere 6, Diaz 4, Gonzales 4, Pena 2.

Yuman Construction 79 – Lansang 23, Ymul 17, Cristobal 17, Galvez 14, Sahagun 14.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 45-45, 69-61, 89-79.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	10	.697	—
Brooklyn	19	15	.559	4½
Boston	16	17	.485	7
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	9
Toronto	12	22	.353	11½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	23	9	.719	—
Atlanta	20	12	.625	3
Orlando	12	21	.364	11½
Charlotte	9	24	.273	14½
Washington	4	28	.125	19

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	20	14	.588	—
Chicago	18	13	.581	½
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	3
Detroit	13	23	.361	8
Cleveland	8	27	.229	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	27	9	.750	—
Memphis	21	10	.677	3½
Houston	20	14	.588	6
Dallas	13	21	.382	13
New Orleans	8	25	.242	17½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	26	7	.788	—
Denver	20	16	.556	7½
Portland	18	15	.545	8
Minnesota	15	15	.500	9½
Utah	17	18	.486	10

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	27	8	.771	—
Golden State	22	11	.667	4
L.A. Lakers	15	18	.455	11
Sacramento	13	21	.382	13½
Phoenix	12	23	.343	15

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOPEZ

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In the semis, the Pacific Oceania tandem was scheduled to challenge the top-ranked pair of Alana Bourgeois and Lauren Smileski

ASTIG

From Page 28

leather hit the latter's leg before rolling toward the goal.

Astig Futsal protected the shaky 1 point lead in the first 15 minutes of play, as Fake Madrid seemed not ready to move on from that costly error.

Not out of the woods yet, Astig Futsal became more active on offense in the second half, dominated possession, and could've scored a few more

of Australia yesterday afternoon. The other semis pairing pitted No. 3 seed Stephanie Pang and Lara Slisko against Annabel Jaskiewicz and Chorlida Kang.

Meanwhile, Rastguiy and Ackerman also joined the U14

goals if not for Clayton Izuka's gallant stand on defense. Izuka rolled on the court several times, as he dove for the saves. There was even one occasion when he was almost hit on the face by one Astig Futsal attacker, as he chased the leather to prevent the third straight attempt from the opposing team.

Fake Madrid's offense failed to match Izuka's persistence on defense, as only Tenorio was left at the other side of the pitch to make several attempts to

singles event, but dropped their opening games in the main draw to fall to the consolation bracket. Ackerman bowed to seventh-ranked Beatrice Hetrel, 3-6, 1-6, while Rastguiy lost to No. 1 seed Lauren Smileski, 1-6, 1-6.

score, while Edwin Kim had a hard time getting away against his taller and equally faster defender. Logan Mister and Guinerverre Borja, who scored in Fake Madrid's previous games, were forced to concentrate on defense, pursuing the tireless Astig Futsal crew.

Astig Futsal was awarded the championship trophy after the title win and each member of the team also received medals. The champion team is composed of Emmanuel Aniana,

Ackerman and Rastguiy made up for their early losses in the consolation draw with the former advancing to the semis and the latter barging into the quarterfinals. Ackerman downed Australia's Bronte Argent, 8-3,

James Ermitanio, David Mafnas, Christopher Aninzo, Jether Yobech, De Jana Muna, Jerlyn Castillo, Diana Maniacop, and Angelica Sally.

Organizers also handed out medals to the Golden Boot awardees—Tenorio and San Antonio Footlose's Bernadette Horey, who drilled 13 and eight goals, respectively.

Meanwhile, San Antonio Footlose won the battle for third place against Spencer United, 6-1.

Horey nailed a pair of goals in

and New Caledonia's Laurent Amanda, 8-4, to march into the quarterfinals. The Fiji-based Ackerman then recorded her third win in a row after ousting Annabel Jaskiewicz, 8-4, to set up a semis tiff against Stark in

the win, while Charizama Aragon, Dave Tanghal, Mareko Tekopua, and Jherico Tiamzon added one apiece. Eunsyu Hahn scored the lone goal for Spencer United.

San Antonio Footlose and Spencer United were forced to play in the consolation game after losing to Astig Futsal and Fake Madrid in the semifinals, respectively, last Friday. Fake Madrid arranged a semis duel against the last-seeded Spencer United after posting a field-best 4-1-1 win-draw-loss record over

the top half draw today at 8am.

In the lower half of the consolation bracket, Rastguiy defeated Bonnie Usher, 8-4, but missed a semis slot after losing to Tayla Garratt in her next game, 5-8. *(Saipan Tribune)*

the latter's 0-1-5 slate in the two-round robin preliminary phase. Fake Madrid earned 13 points before the playoffs, scored 25 goals, and gave up only nine, while Spencer United logged seven goals and allowed 33.

Astig Futsal had the second most goals with 17 and entered the playoffs seeded second with its 3-1-2 card. San Antonio Footlose had a 2-3-1 mark and collected nine goals to gain the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs. *(Saipan Tribune)*

MYTHICAL

From Page 28

tion in the DLX caging after the holiday break, while Docomo led the Chinatown Kings, 56-42, when the second tiff of the night was rained-out in the closing minutes of the third.

With the 3-point win, Mythical now shares the early lead in Division A with Saipan TV, which won over QQ Rent Car, 72-63, last Dec. 22. The Chinatown Kings also played last month before the league took a break and won over Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai, 82-60. Seven teams are entered in Division A, according to league organizers,

while six have registered in Division B and two more are expected to join before the group's competition kicks off.

Mythical leaned on its much deeper bench in the fourth quarter and canned pressure-packed free throws to slip past Cell Pro/Insider. John Darag and five other Mythical players scored in the payoff period to turn a 41-42 deficit to the close win.

Darag nailed 6 points in the final canto, while Jack Lizama, Don Brennan, Erick Dela Rosa, and Rocyl Ritual contributed at least 3 points apiece. Leo Galarse made a free throw in the homestretch, while Dela Rosa, and Lizama also went 1-for-2

from the stripe to seal the win.

Only four players delivered points for Cell Pro/Insider in the fourth canto with Marlon De Dios scoring the bulk of the team's production with his 7 points.

The Mythical-Cell Pro/Insider tiff was a close match right into the opening quarter with neither team leading by twin digits. Mythical was only up by 4 after the first period, 17-13 and stayed on top at the break, 27-22, off the combined 17 points of Darag and Brennan.

Darag was then held to two field goals in the third, while Brennan was scoreless, as Cell Pro/Insider grabbed the up-

per hand, 42-41 behind the 6 markers apiece of Kevin De Leon and De Dios.

The match remained tight in the fourth as teams traded baskets before Mythical gained some cushion off Ritual and Lizama's baskets and converted crucial free throws in the end to save the win.

Meanwhile, Docomo had a jackrabbit start, taking a 25-8 lead and was still in control when rain forced the suspension of the second game of the night.

Ichitaro Faisao kicked off the match with a triple finished with 8 points in the opening canto to lift Docomo to the 17-

point advantage.

The Chinatown Kings then climbed their way back into the game, moving within 3 at the break, 34-37, as the trio of Syl Teregeyo, Paul Quizon, and Pete Lizama teamed up in the second-quarter rally. Teregeyo and Quizon fired 7 points apiece, while Lizama chipped in 6.

In the shortened third quarter, it was Docomo's time to regroup to reestablish the twin-digit lead, 56-42, with less than two minutes left in that period. Faisao brought order back to Docomo, as he canned 8 markers at the start of the second half, while Elgene Mangali backed him up, adding 6 points.

The Chinatown Kings, who played without gunner Preston Basa, was held to three field goals in the third with only Teregeyo and Lizama making it to the scoreboard. The rained-out match will resume on a later date.

First Game

Mythical 63 – Darag 20, Ritual 12, Brennan 11, Lizama 10, Tobias 6, Dela Rosa 4.

Cell Pro/Insider 60 – De Dios 17, De Leon 13, Montano 9, Iglecias 6, Rivera 5, Loste 4, Dayrit 4, Sacramento 2, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 27-22, 41-42, 63-60. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Yumul, manager/acting player agent Tenorio, vice president Annie Deleon-Guerrero-Flores, league secretary Lynn Duenas, league treasurer Yvonne Tarope, statistician Remy Celis, and three coaches attended last Friday's meeting.

For more information about the local Little League program, contact Yumul at 664-8826 or email Duenas at lynn.duenas@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

From Page 28

Tenorio also volunteered to serve as acting players' agent due to Peding Tenorio being off-island. She is expected to return to her post during the season.

Opening day is still set for Feb. 9, 5:30pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, though the league may hold some sneak preview matches

a few days prior to the official opening ceremony.

Two additional Kagman teams—Ford Rangers and Laolao Bay Golf Resort—have also been added to the Major division field last week, bringing its total to 13 and the overall tally of teams to 28 this season.

Next Tuesday, Jan. 15, is the deadline to register a team.

Some topics of discussion

during the upcoming general membership meeting includes the safety officer vacancy, fund-raising, possible amendments of local by-laws, and drug testing, which was by far was the hot issue last Friday.

A member suggested that all board members be subjected to a drug test during the Dec. 18 open door meeting and the board responded last week, saying they would not be opposed

to such tests provided the managers and coaches would also be included in the agreement. The board was not opposed to paying out of pocket, however upon hearing the rebuttal, the managers and coaches claimed that they might not be able to afford such a fee, which costs \$35-\$40 per test.

Though SLLBI president Ray Yumul expressed support for requiring mandatory drug

2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Team Four's Jeralyn Castillo hooks a pass to a teammate, as two Swerve defenders cut her driving lane during their title game in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Swerve's Kaylani Lebria drives against Air Apparent's Kyla Ito.



Team Four's Rachel Abrams goes up for a hook shot against two Swerve players.



Swerve's Madeleine Alegre pulls up for an under-goal stab against Team Four's Rachel Abrams.



Swerve (blue uniform) and Team Four players battle for the loose ball.



Air Apparent's Marie Javier is swarmed by Swerve defenders.



Swerve's Joy Pena rams into the defense of Team Four's Rachel Abrams.



Team Go So Hard's Joana Palero goes up for a shot inside the paint against two Team Four defenders.



Team Go So Hard's Teresita Sablan dribbles from the backcourt against Team Four's Reylynn Sapong.



Team Go So Hard's Jan Travilla dribbles past Team Four's Denise Samson, left.



**RG3 hurt,
Seattle tops
Redskins
in playoffs**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Walker leads
Bobcats past
Pistons in OT**
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28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lopez, Rastguiy reach semis

Membership fees
due on January 19

The CNMI's Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy marched into the semifinal round of their respective events in the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup.

Lopez made it to the semis of the girls U16 singles event of the competition being held at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, Australia, while Rastguiy advanced to the Final Four of the girls' U14 doubles contest with partner Ayana Rengiil of Palau.

Two victories in the 32-player main draw gave Lopez the semis ticket. She drew a bye in the first round and then debuted with a 6-3, 6-0 upset over fourth-ranked Maddison Brackenreg last Sunday. Lopez defeated another seeded foe when she swept Papua New Guinea's and No. 6 seed Lorish Puluspene in the quarterfinals yesterday morning, 6-3, 7-5.

The CNMI bet may have won over Puluspene after only two sets, but their match lasted two tiring hours, leaving Lopez with



Mikayla Lopez, seen here in a file photo from a local tournament, advanced to the girls U16 singles semis of the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup held over the weekend in New South Wales, Australia.

only a few minutes rest for her second consecutive game of the day. The 16-year-old Commonwealth player went for her third straight win and a finals berth, but fell short when she lost to Australia's Rose Taglieri in a three-set duel that was played for two hours and 10 minutes. The host easily won the opening set, 6-1, but Lopez remained in contention after pulling off a 7-5 victory in the second set. Taglieri went on to end Lopez's streak with a 6-3 win in the deciding third set. Taglieri will go for the U16 singles crown against Megan Kauffman today at 9:30am (8:30am Saipan time), while Lopez will duel No. 5 seed Maggie Snowdon in the battle for third place at the same time on Court 10.

Duplicating Lopez' semis stint in the Post Margaret Court Cup was Rastguiy, as the latter and teammate Rengiil notched back-to-back wins over the weekend to stay in the hunt for a finals seat in the girls U14 doubles. Rastguiy and Rengiil eliminated Australia's Anina Conradie and Maddison Stark last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1, and then topped Tammy Ackerman and Charlotte Littlejohn last Sunday, 8-3, to clinch a semis berth in the 14-team field.

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Page 26**

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc is holding its general membership meeting on Jan. 19 starting at 9am at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in the Oleai Sports Complex.

The meeting also serves as the deadline to pay any outstanding membership dues; only registered members will get to vote on the topics in the agenda.

In addition, during an open door meeting held by six members of the board of directors last Friday, the group announced plans to adopt a new charter and the renewal of its non-profit organization business license under its current name, SLLBI.

They are also working on obtaining additional federal grants and other outside funding sources.

The board also discussed the need of appointing a new safety officer as current safety officer Roman Reyes recently turned in his resignation. Reyes served as league treasurer last year.

Managers' agent Patrick
See MEMBERSHIP on Page 26

Astig Futsal clinches championship



Astig Futsal players and coach Jerishwin Angeles, standing center, pose with their trophy and medals after beating Fake Madrid in the finals of the Saipan Soccer School's U12 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.



Astig Futsal bagged the championship in Saipan Soccer School's U12 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament after edging Fake Madrid in the winner-take-all finale, 1-0, last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Jerishwin Angeles-coached Astig Futsal caught a break in the first half to score the lone goal in the finals and played more aggressive on defense in the second to pull off an upset over the top-seeded Fake Madrid.

An own goal was made when there was a scramble for possession inside the penalty area midway in the first half. Astig Futsal's Louie Calayag then managed to win the battle for the ball and went for a shot from the left key inside the penalty box, while Fake Madrid's Sunjoon Tenorio ran to the center to help out on defense and the

See ASTIG on Page 26



Docomo's Arthur Montes, second left, draws contact from Chinatown Kings' Joe Acosta, third left, during the first quarter of their game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mythical wins; Docomo leads rained-out game

Mythical out-classed Cell Pro/Insider, while Docomo is zeroing in on its debut win as the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong

Invitational Basketball League resumed last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mythical eked out a 63-60 victory in the lone match completed at the resumption of ac-

See MYTHICAL on Page 26